

MOUNT GAMBIER HIGH SCHOOL

VISION, VALUES & MISSION STATEMENT



Government of South Australia
Department for Education

OVERVIEW

It is important to aspire and inspire and to create a shared image of what our school stands for and where it wants to be.

Recognising and resolving common priorities is a key element for success and will depend not only on the appropriateness of the statements agreed upon but, equally crucially, how they are arrived at in the first place and how they are communicated to the institution as a whole.

Terms such as 'mission statements' , 'vision' and 'values' are not fixed and absolute and it is inevitable that what one school may currently think of as a 'vision' may be constructed by another as part of their 'values'. Likewise, the content of one institution's 'mission statement' may be remarkably similar to another's 'value set'. This really doesn't matter - we have called each according to what we believe will have the greatest resonance for our school.

Special thanks and acknowledgement to the staff, parents, students and community representatives who shared ideas and opinions to ensure this consultation process was extensive.

We pay our respect and thanks to the enormous ground work and positive impact on the culture of the school that was enabled when the values of Learning, Optimism and Enjoyment were established many years ago. These values and the statements that supported them were central to the designing and decisions to select our new direction and priorities.



OUR MOTTO

Nihil Absque Labore - Nothing Without Effort

Bringing the school community together to inspire them with a short meaningful motto.

An inspiring motto is about sharing ideas whether they are related to life or education. School Mottos or slogans focus the mind on important principles, standards and ethics. They drive people in a school community to live in harmony and achieve educational success.



What does this mean for our school?

- Encouraging and modeling a good work ethic with positive language.
- Celebrating, rewarding and acknowledging success and achievements at every level within the classroom.
- Inspiring students with the opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities.
- Engaging with all students and providing safe, positive and inclusive learning environments.
- Positive reinforcement whilst modeling effort and hard work.

OUR MISSION

Our staff are purposeful, engaging and inclusive. Our students participate with effort and pride and our community celebrates diversity and thrives on collaboration.

A mission statement defines an entity's reason for existence.

Any entity that attempts to operate without a mission statement runs the risk of wandering through the world without having the ability to verify that it is on its intended course. Without a mission statement the organisation risks wandering 'off mission' and wasting time and resources trying to achieve things which are at best peripheral and at worst irrelevant to the objectives it should be trying to achieve.



What does this mean for our school?

- Access to authentic, real world experiences by connecting and working with external agencies, businesses and the community.
- Opportunities for students to step into leadership responsibilities and amplify the student voice.
- Freedom for students to follow their passions by encouraging and providing opportunities for interest-based learning.
- Working with today's reality to offer opportunities for students to build stronger links to industry and the community and create future pathways to connect to the world of work.
- Developing and solving real world problems with local business.
- Building relationships with students and growing in understanding of how they learn.

OUR VISION

Mount Gambier High School students practise skills and gain confidence to successfully face the challenges of an ever-changing world in an environment that values a sense of learning, innovation and agile thinking.

A school's vision statement is an articulation of its major goals and ambitions.

The vision statement represents a description of what and where we want to be. A vision statement gives direction and goals that help a school grow, expand and improve.



What does this mean for our school?

- Creating a safe space for students to challenge themselves and develop critical thinking skills.
- Developing curriculum and programs with varied levels of achievement which challenge students.
- Provide teaching of real world skills, responsibilities, experiences and expectations such as punctuality, communication and life skills.
- Creating consistent expectations, provide feedback and assist with the development of social and resilience skills.
- Designing cross-curricula activities collaborative tasks.
- Create links between student learning and the wider community.

OUR VALUES

'LEARNING' - Through innovation, collaboration and curiosity, meaningful connections are made between the learning and the world around us.

Values describe culture, ethos and priorities.



What does this mean for our school?

- Getting to know students and valuing them as individual learners.
- Creating group work, collaboration and team teaching.
- Providing opportunities for guest speakers and building external relationships by participating in excursions and connections within the community.
- Having a personalised approach by giving students the opportunity to drive the learning and how that progresses.
- Collaborating with VET, business, industry and local primary schools.
- Trialing new approaches with STEM and entrepreneurial learning.
- Teaching and modeling inclusion by incorporating team work for peer learning, communication and collaboration skills.

OUR VALUES

'BELONGING' - Being part of a safe, supportive environment where we learn and work, and where positive relationships foster the opportunity to be heard and valued.

Defining our values allows us to elaborate on their particular relevance to our school and how they influence the work we do.



What does this mean for our school?

- Building positive relationships, being approachable and showing equity and respect to reflect the basics for a safe school.
- Providing opportunities for students to belong and participate in a variety of learning and extra-curricula activities.
- Encouraging parent involvement to build social connections between home and school.
- Offering emotional support to students by being sensitive to their needs and emotions.
- Showing interest in students and trying to understand their point of view.
- Remaining respectful and demonstrating fair treatment through the fostering of positive peer relationships.
- Encouraging mutual respect amongst classmates to establish a sense of community.



OUR VALUES

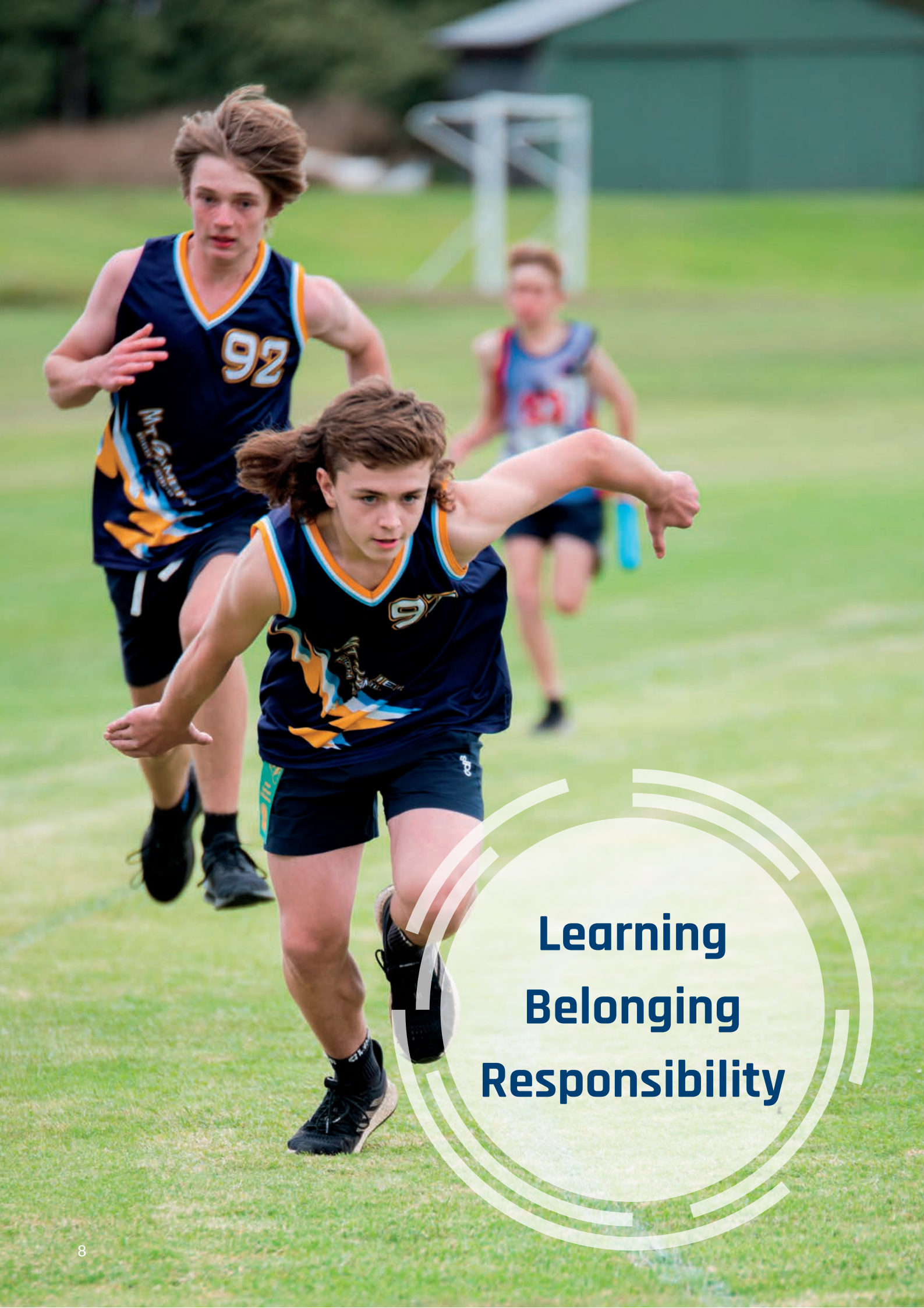
'RESPONSIBILITY' - For actions, for learning and for the impact this has on self and others.

In order to be effective, our values must be something shared, adapted and believed in, by the school community as a whole.



What does this mean for our school?

- Develop learning behaviours that lead to success and provide opportunities for students to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Encourage independence by creating self-directed activities.
- Promoting time management and organisational skills to assist students with coming to school prepared to learn and participate.
- Assisting students to grow in the areas of self-awareness, reflection, ownership, personal pride and appearance.
- Creating opportunities to recognise how behaviour can impact on others and self.



**Learning
Belonging
Responsibility**

NOTES

