

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY POLICY



PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is explain Drouin South Primary School's commitment to making sure every member of our school community, regardless of their background or personal attributes, is treated with respect and dignity. Drouin South Primary School strives to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment for all students and members of our school community.

POLICY

Definitions

Personal attribute: a feature of a person's background or personal characteristics that is protected by State or Commonwealth anti-discrimination legislation. For example: race, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion etc.

Inclusion and diversity

Drouin South Primary School is committed to creating a school community where all members of our school community are welcomed, accepted and treated equitably and with respect regardless of their backgrounds or personal attributes such as race, language, religious beliefs, gender identity, disability or sexual orientation so that they can participate, achieve and thrive at school.

Drouin South Primary School acknowledges and celebrates the diversity of backgrounds and experiences in our school community and we will not tolerate behaviours, language or practices that label, stereotype or demean others.

Drouin South Primary School will:

- ensure that all students and members of our school community are treated with respect and dignity
- ensure that students are not discriminated against and where necessary, are accommodated to participate in education and all school activities (eg. schools sports, concerts, assemblies, graduations, camps and excursions) on the same basis as their peers
- acknowledge and respond to the diverse needs, identities and strengths of all students
- encourage empathy and fairness towards others
- challenge stereotypes that promote prejudicial and biased behaviours and practices
- contribute to positive learning, engagement and wellbeing outcomes for students.

Bullying, harassment and other forms of inappropriate behaviour targeting individuals because of their personal attributes will not be tolerated in our school community. Students who may have experienced or witnessed this type of behaviour are encouraged to speak up and to let their teachers, parents or carers know about those behaviours to ensure that inappropriate behaviour can be addressed.

Drouin South Primary School will take appropriate measures, consistent with its *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying* policies to respond to discriminatory behaviour or harassment at our school.

Drouin South Primary School also understands that it has a special obligation to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate students with disabilities. A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to assist all students to participate in their education on the same basis as their peers. Reasonable adjustments will be made for students with disabilities through our Student Support Group processes in consultation with the student, their parents or carers, their teachers and if appropriate, their treating practitioners. For more information about support available for students with disabilities, please refer to our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* policy or contact the Principal for further information.

Victorian SHARE Principles for Inclusive Education

The following principles provide guidance for all members of the school community on the main features of inclusive education.

S: Student-Centred

Inclusive education involves students, in collaboration with their peers and/or carers, in decision-making processes as respected partners in education.

H: Human rights focused

Inclusive education is supported by and is the realisation of a human rights based approach to education. International human rights principles and Victoria's Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 provide a framework for every Victorian to be treated with dignity and respect and to enjoy their human rights without discrimination.

A: Acknowledges strengths

Inclusive education recognises that each child and young person is unique. It focuses on a strengths-based, personalised approach to education that celebrates and welcomes difference to maximize learning, engagement and wellbeing outcomes.

R: Respects legal obligations

Inclusive education enables schools to uphold legal obligations to make reasonable adjustments for all students with disabilities. Reasonable adjustments assist all students to participate in education on the same basis as their peers without a disability.

E: Evidence-based

Inclusive education uses contemporary evidence-based practices known to be effective in responding to individual student needs and improving student outcomes.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Drouin South Primary School policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Statement of Values
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct

Department of Education and Training School Policy and Advisory Guide:

- [Inclusive Education](#)
- [Koorie Education](#)
- [Teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture](#)
- [Safe Schools](#)
- [Supports and Services](#)
- [Program for Students with Disabilities](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on 7th September 2018 and is scheduled for review in September 2021.