



INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY POLICY

Mitcham Primary School

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain Mitcham 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. Mitcham 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.

Direct discrimination: unfavourable treatment because of a person's protected attribute.

Indirect discrimination: imposing an unreasonable requirement, condition or practice that disadvantages a person or group of people with a protected attribute.

Sexual harassment: unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature towards another person which could reasonably be expected to make that other person feel offended, humiliated or intimidated. It may be physical, verbal, visual or written.

Disability harassment: an action taken in relation to the person's disability that is reasonably likely, in all the circumstances, to humiliate, offend, intimidate or distress the person.

Vilification: conduct that incites hatred towards or revulsion or severe ridicule of a person or group of people on the basis of their race or religion.

Victimisation: subjecting a person or threatening to subject them to detrimental treatment because they (or their associate) has made an allegation of discrimination or harassment on the basis of a protected attribute (or asserted their rights under relevant policies or law).

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Mitcham 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.

Mitcham 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.

Mitcham 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, excursions, school visits, productions, graduation, school community events) 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.

Mitcham Primary School will take appropriate measures, consistent with its *Student Engagement and Wellbeing, Bullying Prevention, Statement of Values and School Philosophy* policies to respond to discriminatory behaviour or harassment at our school. Students that are involved in bullying or harassing others on the basis of their personal attributes will be supported to understand the impact of their behaviour.

Mitcham 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 Wellbeing co-ordinator Heather Wood 9873 1551 for further information.

Mitcham Primary School also understands that it has a legal obligation to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate students with disabilities. A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to assist students with disabilities to participate in their education on the same basis as their peers. Reasonable adjustments will be made for students with disabilities in consultation with the student, their parents or carers, their teachers and if



appropriate, their treating practitioners. Our school may consult through Student Support Group processes and in other less formal ways.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- 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](#)
 - [Mitcam Primary School - Student Wellbeing policy](#)
 - [Mitcam Primary School - Statement of Values and School Philosophy](#)
 - [Mitcam Primary School - Bullying Prevention](#)

REVIEW PERIOD

Policy Review and Approval	February 2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	February 2025