

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY POLICY

RATIONALE:

The purpose of this policy is to explain Amsleigh Park 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. This policy should be read alongside the following Department of Education and Training policies:

- [Equal Opportunity and Human Rights - Students](#)
- For staff, the [Respectful Workplaces](#) policies (including [Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination](#), [Sexual Harassment](#) and [Workplace Bullying](#)) as these whole of Department policies apply to all staff at Amsleigh Park Primary School.



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school general office on 9544 1553 or via email: amsleigh.park.ps@education.vic.gov.au

GOAL:

- ❖ The purpose of this policy is to explain Amsleigh Park 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.

GUIDELINES:

Definitions

Personal attribute: a personal characteristic that is protected by State or Commonwealth anti-discrimination legislation. These include: race, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious belief or activity, political belief or activity, age, intersex status, physical features, pregnancy, carer and parental status, breastfeeding, marital or relationship status, lawful sexual activity, employment activity, industrial activity, expunged homosexual conviction or personal association with anyone who is identified with reference to any protected attribute.

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: humiliating comments or actions about a person's disability.

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

Amsleigh Park Primary School strives to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment which values the human rights of all students and staff.

Amsleigh Park Primary School has a unique and diverse school community. We have a great range in our student and family backgrounds, with enrolment coming from a wide range of social and cultural backgrounds. Around 25% of our students were born overseas including families from India, China, Greece, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom. Our school has several students supported by the Program for Students with Disabilities, children living in Out of Home Care and children from an Aboriginal background. All students and families are welcome at Amsleigh Park Primary School.

Amsleigh Park 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.

Amsleigh Park 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. At Amsleigh Park Primary School we value the human rights of every student and we take our obligations under anti-discrimination laws and the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities seriously.

Amsleigh Park Primary School will:

- Actively nurture and promote a culture where everyone is treated with respect and dignity
- ensure that students are not discriminated against (directly or indirectly) and where necessary, are reasonably accommodated to participate in their education and school activities (eg schools sports, school production, 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
- respond to complaints and allegations appropriately and ensure that students are not victimised.

At Amsleigh Park Primary School, inclusion is one of our school values. Our weekly awards at Assembly, celebrating students who exemplify inclusion, helps to encourage and continually build on the existing culture of inclusion at Amsleigh Park Primary School. In our start of year 'Learning to Learn' program, teachers and students get to know one another and share what makes them special and unique. Here diversity in all forms is highlighted and celebrated, setting the expectation for inclusion at Amsleigh Park. Learning programs in the senior school explore the UN charter of human rights, further teaching the importance of inclusion and educating our students about anti-discrimination.

Bullying, unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and other forms of inappropriate behaviour targeting individuals or groups because of their personal attributes will not be tolerated at Amsleigh Park Primary School. We will take appropriate measures, consistent with our *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying-Prevention* policies to respond to students who demonstrate these behaviours at our school.

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. 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

Reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities

Amsleigh Park 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. For more information about support available for students with disabilities, and communicating with us in relation to a student's disability, please contact the Assistant Principal, the Disabilities Co-Ordinator for further information.

Communication

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

The following school policies are also relevant to this Inclusion and Diversity Policy:

- Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy

For staff, please see the Department's [Equal Opportunity and Anti-Discrimination Policy](#), [Sexual Harassment Policy](#) and [Workplace Bullying Policy](#) which apply to all staff working at our school.

Other relevant Department policies and resources on the School Policy and Advisory Guide are:

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

STATUS:

- **Consultation:** School Council – 20th March 2023
Staff – 1st March 2023
- **Reviewed:** March 2023
- **Approved by:** Michael Cormick – Principal
- **Next Review:** March 2025