



Inclusion and Diversity Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is explain Warrnambool East 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. WEPS strives to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment for all students and members of our school community.

POLICY

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

Warrnambool East 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.

We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers. We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, including the cultural safety of children from culturally/or linguistically diverse backgrounds. We provide a safe environment for all children including vulnerable students and students with a disability.

WEPS 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 Warrnambool East 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.

Warrnambool East 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, concerts) 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.

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.

WEPS will take appropriate measures, consistent with its *Student Wellbeing and Engagement (and Bullying) Policy* to respond to discriminatory behaviour or harassment at our school and all students will be supported to understand the impact of any inappropriate behaviour.

WEPS 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. **Reasonable adjustments will be made for students with health care needs and specific dietary requirements (e.g coeliacs; religion/cultural based), to enable them to participate fully in school experiences.** 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.

***suggestion for review of this policy (parent input 2021)**

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- The school values of Trust, Honesty, Caring and Respect will be supported by the character traits and philosophy of Positive Education and Respectful Relationships.
- Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy (includes Bullying Prevention Policy)
- 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 May 18th 2021 and is scheduled for review in May 2025.

<p>Is it compulsory for all Victorian government schools to have a policy addressing this issue?</p>	<p>Yes schools should have this policy in place as it covers key legal obligations in relation to discrimination and sexual harassment.</p> <p>NOTE: Schools are encouraged to use their Equipment Boost funding in 2019 to develop or refresh their Inclusion and Diversity Policy.</p>
<p>Does this policy have to be approved by school council?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Recommended consultation</p>	<p>It is recommended that school council be consulted and its views should be taken into account when you adopt this policy, as the sections in this template that are marked in yellow should be tailored to your school community and your school may wish to add additional statements or information to support inclusion and diversity.</p>
<p>What is the basis of this policy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)</i> • <i>Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)</i> • <i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)</i> • <i>Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth)</i> • <i>Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)</i> • <i>Age Discrimination Act 2004 (Cth)</i>
<p>Recommended review cycle</p>	<p>3-4 years</p>