

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY POLICY (includes Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment)

(Department of Education and Training)

RATIONALE

The rationale for this policy is to explain Findon 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. Findon Primary School strives to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment which values the human rights of all students and staff. For staff, this policy should be read alongside the Department of Education and Training's [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 Findon.

AIMS

- To create an inclusive school culture that fosters acceptance and respect for diversity
- To deepen understanding and knowledge, promote student and staff wellbeing and help everyone achieve their full potential
- To enrich and celebrate the diversity of our whole school community
- To ensure that the school community is free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, vilification and victimisation

IMPLEMENTATION:

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

Findon 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 so that they can participate, achieve and thrive at school.

Findon 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 Findon 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.

Findon 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, productions) 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
- teach and promote respectful relationships through our Respectful Relationships Education program
- teach values education through the classroom and restorative approaches to restoring harmed relationships.

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 Findon. We will take appropriate measures, consistent with our *Student Wellbeing, Engagement and Inclusion* 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/caregivers know to ensure that inappropriate behaviour can be addressed.

Reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities

Findon Primary School also understands that it has an 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/caregivers, their teachers and if appropriate, allied support services and other relevant services. Our school may consult through Student Support Group (SSG) processes and in other less formal ways. For more information about support available for students with disabilities, please see the *Student Wellbeing, Engagement and Inclusion Policy* and *Program for Students with Disabilities Policy* or contact your child's class teacher for further information.

EVALUATION

This policy shall be reviewed as part of the school's three year policy and process review.

REFERENCES

Findon Primary School 's Inclusion and Diversity Policy is one component of the DET broader policy framework for the promotion of safe and inclusive schools and protection of human rights. Other relevant documentation may include:

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.

DET Diversity and Inclusion Policy <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/hrweb/divequity/Pages/default.aspx>

DET Occupational Health and Safety Policies

Equal Opportunity Act http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/eoa2010250/

Charter of Human Rights

<https://www.humanrightscommission.vic.gov.au/human-rights/the-charter>

Student Wellbeing, Engagement and Inclusion Policy

Program for Students with Disabilities Policy

Bullying Prevention Policy