

Multicultural Policy

Background

At Huntingdale Primary School students come from a range of multicultural backgrounds.

Citizenship and informed civic participation are the cornerstones of our successful, cohesive and prosperous multicultural, secular and multi-faith society. We want our children to understand their roles, rights and responsibilities as citizens, and to know how to contribute actively to civic life and to interact harmoniously with the diverse cultures and faiths in their local, state, national and global communities.

We understand that Multicultural Education allows all students to have access to inclusive teaching and learning experiences. These experiences will help students to successfully take part in a rapidly changing world where cross-cultural understanding and intercultural communication skills are essential and equip them with the knowledge and skills to participate in and contribute to our diverse society as active and informed citizens - locally, nationally and internationally. It helps students develop:

- Proficiency in English.
- Competency in a language or languages other than English.
- In depth knowledge and awareness of their own and other cultures.
- An understanding of the multicultural nature of Australia's past and present history.
- An understanding of, and skills to interact in, intercultural settings.
- An appreciation of the importance of local, national and international interdependence in social, environmental, economic and political arenas and an understanding that mutual support in these areas is vital to local and global harmony.

Purpose

To ensure:

- Students have access to a multicultural education at Huntingdale Primary School.
- The school is compliant with *Victorian Multicultural Act 2011*, *Racial and Religious Tolerance (RRT) Act 2001* and the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and policies and procedures set out by the Department of Education and Training (DET).
- The school is compliant with the Child Safe Standards.

Implementation

- The Principal has the overall responsibility of implementing this policy, but may delegate certain roles to suitably qualified staff.
- The school will ensure multicultural perspectives are incorporated into all aspects of school life by:
 - Promoting diversity as a positive learning experience in classrooms, through the curriculum we teach and the school newsletter.
 - Incorporating multicultural perspectives across all learning domains.
 - Enhancing students' intercultural understanding and cross-cultural communication skills through inquiry units of work.



- Implementing ‘Intercultural Understanding (ICU) Weeks’ as an integral part of the curriculum at Huntingdale Primary School each year, with a different focus (e.g. food, sport, art) each term.
- Ensuring all school policies, including three year strategic and annual plans, codes of conduct, dress codes and discipline policies reflect the diverse nature of the school community.
- Promoting anti-racism, and human rights perspectives in school policies and practices.
- Ensuring all children, regardless of race, are protected under the Child Safe Standards.
- Acknowledging and celebrating a variety of days that are significant to cultural groups in the school.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s 3 year cycle or as needed to comply with DET policy changes.

Document Status

Reviewed	School Council Ratification	Next Review
September 2016	15 th November 2016	15 th November 2019