



INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY POLICY 2022

(includes Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment)



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the Watsonia Heights Primary School Office at (03) 9435 4617.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain Watsonia Heights 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. Watsonia Heights Primary School strives to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment which values the human rights of all students, staff and members of our school community. This policy should be read alongside the following Department of Education and Training Policy -

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 the whole of these Department policies apply to all staff at Watsonia Heights Primary School.

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).
Watsonia Heights Primary School - Inclusion and Diversity Policy

Inclusion and diversity

Watsonia Heights 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.

Watsonia Heights 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 Watsonia Heights 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.

Watsonia Heights 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, camps) 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, unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification 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.

Watsonia Heights Primary School will take appropriate measures, consistent with its *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying Prevention* policies to respond to discriminatory behaviour or harassment at our school.

Watsonia Heights 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 in consultation with the student, their parents or carers, their teachers and if appropriate, their treating practitioners. Our school may report through our Student Support Group processes and in other less formal ways. For more information about support available for students with disabilities, please refer to our school's [Student Wellbeing and Engagement](#) policy or contact the school Principal or Assistant Principal for further information.

COMMUNICATION

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

ways: • Available publicly on our school's website,

Watsonia Heights Primary School - Inclusion and Diversity Policy

- Included in staff induction processes and staff training,
- Included in staff handbook/manual,
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings,
- Hard copy available from school administration office upon request.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Associated policies:

- o *Student Wellbeing and Engagement*
- o *Statement of Values*
- o [Bullying Prevention](#)

For more information see the School Policy and Advisory Guide:

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

REVIEW PERIOD

Policy last reviewed
Approved by
Next scheduled review date

July 2022

Principal Date

Approved: 31/10/2022 July

2026