



WESTGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 5365

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY POLICY

(includes Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain Westgrove 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. Westgrove 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 Westgrove 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).

Inclusion and diversity

Westgrove 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

Westgrove 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.

Westgrove Primary provides an approved curriculum framework differentiated to meet student needs. Visual Arts, Performing Arts, Physical Education (PE), STEM and Spanish are specialist areas provided by the school. The school provides teaching assistants, and an intervention teacher supporting a range of intervention strategies and programs to assist students needing additional support. Enrichment and extra curricula programs are offered for students in a range of learning activities and environments. These include; instrumental and vocal music, robotics, swimming, camping and interschool sport programs; wellbeing programs and student leadership opportunities.

The school provides a breakfast club operating before school, for two days per week and a daily canteen for students.

Westgrove 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. The school celebrates cultural diversity by acknowledging celebrations and rituals of the various cultural groups in our community e.g. Harmony Day, Refugee Week and Reconciliation Week.

Westgrove 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, incursions & excursions, camps and graduation ceremonies) 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.

Westgrove's Guiding Values are: Respect, Empathy, Honesty, Perseverance, Inclusivity, Collaboration, and Resilience.

These values define our behaviours and underpin all decision making. We are committed to ensuring that we treat one another and the environment with respect, are honest in our endeavours and interactions, persevere to achieve our goals, demonstrate empathy for all members of our community and at all times embrace inclusive practices. We are striving to develop a toolbox of strategies to help us become more resilient and we are collaborative in both our learning and our decision-making.

The School-wide Positive Behaviour Pillars of **be safe, be respectful** and **be a learner** are embedded in our practice across the school.

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 Westgrove Primary School. We will take appropriate measures, consistent with our *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying* 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.

Reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities

Westgrove 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 refer to our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* policy or contact Kerrie Slaymaker, Assistant Principal (Well-being) for further information.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

All school policies are available on the school website <http://www.westgrps.vic.edu.au/>

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.

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on 29/05/2020 and is scheduled for review in 3 years.