SOUTH YARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY POLICY

Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact South Yarra Primary School.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to explain South Yarra 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. This policy should be read alongside the following Department of Education policies:

- Equal Opportunity and Human Rights - Students
- For staff, the Respectful Workplaces policies (including Equal Opportunity-Employees, Sexual Harassment and Workplace Bullying) as these whole of Department policies apply to all staff at South Yarra 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: an action taken in relation to the person's disability that is reasonably likely, in all the circumstances, to humiliate, offend, intimidate or distress the person

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

South Yarra Primary School strives to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment which values the human rights of all students and staff.

South Yarra 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.

South Yarra 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 South Yarra 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.

South Yarra Primary School will:

- Actively nurture and promote a culture where everyone is 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, assemblies, school musical performances) 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.
- promote the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- promote the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- promote the safety of children with a disability.

Bullying, harassment and other forms of inappropriate behaviour targeting individuals or groups because of their personal attributes will not be tolerated at South Yarra Primary School. We will take appropriate measures, consistent with our SYPS *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and SYPS *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

South Yarra 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 with disabilities in consultation with the student, their parents or carers, their teachers and if appropriate, their treating practitioners. Our school may consult through our 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 and the *SYPS Student Code of Conduct* or contact the General Office for further information.

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff induction processes and staff training
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings
- Discussed at student forums
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Reminders in our school newsletter
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

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.

Other relevant Department policies and resources on the Department's Policy and Advisory Library are:

- Equal Opportunity and Human Rights - Students
- Preventing and Addressing Racism in Schools
- Koorie Education
- LGBTQIA+ Student Support
- Safe Schools
- Student Engagement
- Students with Disability
- Disability Inclusion Funding and Support
- Disability Inclusion Profile
- Child Safe Standards

- The following additional policies are available on the SYPS website
  - SYPS Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
  - SYPS Statement of Values and Philosophy
  - SYPS Bullying Policy

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 2025
Consultation	SYPS Staff, Education Committee (staff and parent representatives), School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	September 2028