

Multicultural Policy

Rationale

Altona Green Primary School and their families come from a diverse range of cultural backgrounds. Many students are bilingual, speaking languages other than English at home.

In order for our school to truly reflect the needs and aspirations of our students and their families, we need to ensure that their culturally rich backgrounds are recognised, catered for, celebrated and valued.

Altona Green Primary School is committed to building the cultural diversity of its students and community. Our commitment to our values of Kindness, Encouragement, Fairness, Acceptance and Respect underpin our goal of building an inclusive school culture, challenging ignorance and prejudice and enabling Altona Green Primary School students to become informed, thoughtful global and multi-cultural citizens. The development of such a culture will contribute to improved learning outcomes for all students.

Aims

The aims of our Multicultural Policy are;

- To ensure that all members of the school community are entitled to mutual respect and understanding regardless of their cultural, racial and linguistic backgrounds.
- To equip and develop 21st century learners with skills and knowledge to operate as a global and multicultural citizen, including intercultural communication skills, ICT skills and proficiency in English and, if desired, other languages.
- To enhance the engagement, wellbeing and sense of belonging for all students in safe and secure learning environments, regardless of cultural or linguistic background.
- To build the capacity of the school community to identify and address overt, subtle and institutionalised racism, stereotyping and other forms of prejudice
- To ensure that 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
- For the school to acknowledge, respect and celebrate culturally significant events and where possible, using them as teaching and learning opportunities.

Implementation Guidelines:

AusVELS provides multiple entry points for introducing multicultural and global perspectives across the curriculum. These include, but are not limited to, the domains of Civics and Citizenship, History and English.

From Prep to Grade 6, inclusive teaching programs will be developed and implemented across the curriculum that take into account multicultural perspectives in order to engage all students in their learning. These may involve units of work that enable;

- The investigation of social, cultural, religious and linguistic similarities and differences that characterise communities within Australia and around the world.
- Competency in English or languages other than English
- An understanding of the multicultural nature of Australia's past and present history
- The promotion of diversity as a positive learning experience
- Recognition of roles and responsibilities as a citizen of their local and global communities.

- Inclusive learning environments in which all members of the AGPS community are treated with respect, regardless of their cultural identities or belief systems
- Students to identify and raise concerns about racism, stereotyping and other forms of prejudice.
- Restorative practices to be implemented. Please refer to Student Engagement Policy.
- The reinforcement of Altona Green Primary School values.

Links to related policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with related policies/publications including;

- Altona Green Primary School Engagement Policy
- [Education for Global and Multicultural Citizenship : A Strategy for Victorian Government Schools 2009-2013 \(PDF - 1.3Mb\)](#)
- *The Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001*
- *The Multicultural Victoria Act 2011*
- *The Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*

Review:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school review cycle or as required.

Endorsed by School Council: August 2015