

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office.

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain Beeac 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 and Training policies:

- [Equal Opportunity and Human Rights - Students](#)
- For staff, the [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 Beeac Primary School.

Our school's approach aligns with the [Ministerial Order 1359](#) which sets out how the Victorian Child Safe Standards apply in school environments.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all school staff, volunteers and contractors. It also applies to school council members where indicated. The policy applies in all physical and online school environments used by students during or outside of school hours, including other locations provided by for a student's use (for example, a school camp) and those provided through third-party providers

This should be read together with our other child safety and wellbeing policies, procedures, and codes of conduct (refer to the related school policies section at the end of this 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.



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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).

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Inclusion and diversity

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

Our students come from within the township of Beeac and surrounding communities of Cundare, Dreeite, Weering, Eurack and Cressy. Many students travel to school on a free bus that transports them through various townships between Beeac and Cressy.

Beeac 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.

Beeac 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 Beeac 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.

Beeac 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 such as, schools sports, school bus, events and concerts, 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



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- contribute to positive learning, engagement and wellbeing outcomes for students
- respond to complaints and allegations appropriately and ensure that students are not victimised.

At Beeac Primary School we have a commitment to acknowledging diversity and we have a strong focus on student social development. Beeac Primary School uses School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) to teach students to behave responsibly and with respect for others. Our programs are built around the school's goals of: teamwork, learning and respect.

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

Students who are involved in Incidents of bullying or harassing others on the basis of their personal attributes will be supported to understand the impact of their behaviour. Further information can be found in our Bullying Prevention Policy

Reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities

Beeac 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. 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 the 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 and through COMPASS
- Included in staff induction processes
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Referenced at least annually in the school newsletter
- Discussed at student forums
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request



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FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Related School Policies/Documents:

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Child Safe Policy
- Child Safe Code of Conduct and Statement of Commitment
- Complaints Policy
- Digital Learning Policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- Statement of Values and School Philosophy
- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

Related Department of Education and Training policies

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

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years, or earlier as required following an incident or if DET policy changes

Policy last reviewed	June 2022
Approved by	Principal
Consultation (Recommended)	School staff/School Council July 2022
Next scheduled review date	June 2024