

Inclusion and Diversity Policy

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School Policy and Advisory Guide Reference:	Last updated
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Last Ratified by School Council	October 2018
Line Manager	
Origin	WFGS
School	Wodonga South Primary
	School

Baranduda Primary School
Belvoir Special School
Melrose Primary School
Wodonga Middle Years College
Wodonga Senior Secondary College
Wodonga South Primary School
Wodonga Primary School
Wodonga West Children's Centre

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Introduction

Wodonga Federation of Government Schools (The Federation) and its member schools: Wodonga Primary School, Wodonga South Primary School, Wodonga West Primary School, Melrose Primary School, Baranduda Primary School, Wodonga Middle Years College, Wodonga Senior Secondary College, Belvoir Special School are committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all staff, students, visitors, volunteers and contractors.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to explain The Federation's and member school's commitment to making sure every member of our school communities, regardless of their background or personal attributes, is treated with respect and dignity. The Federation strives to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment for all students and members of our school communities.

Definition

Term	Definition	
Personal attribute	A feature of a person's background or personal	
	characteristics that is protected by State or Commonwealth	
	anti-discrimination legislation. For example: race, disability,	
	sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion etc.	

Inclusion and Diversity

The Federation and its member schools are committed to creating school communities where all members of our school communities 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 Federation and its member schools acknowledges and celebrates the diversity of backgrounds and experiences in our school communities and we will not tolerate behaviours, language or practices that label, stereotype or demean others.

Belvoir Special School
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The Federation and its member schools will:

- ensure that all students and members of our school communities 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, events,) 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.

Bullying, harassment and other forms of inappropriate behaviour targeting individuals because of their personal attributes will not be tolerated in our school communities. 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.

The Federation and its member schools will take appropriate measures, consistent with its Student Wellbeing and Engagement and Bullying and Prevention policies to respond to discriminatory behaviour or harassment at our school. Students that are involved in bullying or harassing others on the basis of their personal attributes will be supported to understand the impact of their behaviour.

The Federation and its member schools 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 through our Student Support Group processes in consultation with the student, their parents/carers and/or their support person, their teachers and if appropriate, their treating practitioners. For more information about support available for students with disabilities, please refer to the Student Wellbeing and Engagement policy at your child's school or contact the school for further information.



Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed every three years or more often if necessary due to changes in legislation or circumstances.

Relevant Policies and guidance

- Member school Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Wodonga Federation of Government Schools' Bullying and Prevention Policy

Victorian Department of Education and Training

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
 - o Inclusive Education
 - Koorie Education
 - o Teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture
 - Safe Schools
 - o Supports and Services
 - o Program for Students with Disabilities

Endorsed by Wodonga South Primary School Council and effective as of: October 2018

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