East Bentleigh Primary School

Inclusion and Diversity Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is explain East Bentleigh 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. East Bentleigh PS strives to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment for all students and members of our school community.

POLICY

Definitions

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

East Bentleigh PS 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.

East Bentleigh PS 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.

East Bentleigh PS will:

- ensure that all students and members of our school community 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, excursions and in school visits) 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 community. 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.

East Bentleigh PS will take appropriate measures, consistent with its *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Safe School* policies to respond to discriminatory behaviour or harassment at our school.

East Bentleigh PS 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 or carers, their teachers and if appropriate, their treating practitioners. For more information about support available for students with disabilities, please refer to our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* policy or contact the Principal on **9570-3525** for further information.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- Student Engagement Policy
  http://eastbentleighps.vic.edu.au/uploaded_files/media/student_engagement.pdf

- Responding to Bullying Policy
  http://www.eastbentleighps.vic.edu.au/uploaded_files/media/responding_to_bullying_policy.pdf

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

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on 23rd June 2018 and is scheduled for review in June 2019.