



Ascot Vale Special School

"Learning for life"

## Inclusion and Diversity Policy

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain Ascot Vale Special 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. Ascot Vale Special School 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

Ascot Vale Special 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.

Ascot Vale Special 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.

Ascot Vale Special School will:

- create a safe and inclusive environment for all of our students, including LGBTI students and staff.
- create and sustain a safe, equitable, respectful and inclusive learning environment for every student and staff member, same-sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse students and staff.
- 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 (e.g. schools sports, concerts, graduation ceremonies 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.

Ascot Vale Special School will take appropriate measures, consistent with its *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying* 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.

Ascot Vale Special 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 through our Student Support Group processes in consultation with the student, their parents or carers, their teachers and if appropriate, their treating practitioners.

## **RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES**

Statement of School Values Policy

Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

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](#)

## **Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review process.

**This policy was last ratified by AVSS School Council on: 8/5/2018**