

Mount Ridley P-12 College

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY



Help for non-English speakers

If you require assistance with understanding this policy, please do not hesitate to contact the College and someone will organise a multicultural aide or the relevant person to assist you.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain Mount Ridley P-12 College'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 Mount Ridley P-12 College.

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.

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).

Inclusion and diversity

Mount Ridley P-12 College strives to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment which values the human rights of all students and staff.

Mount Ridley P-12 College has an enrolment of approximately 2800 students across primary and secondary year levels. Approximately 53 cultures are represented with just under 800 EAL students and 400 refugee students. The major cultural groups that are prevalent at the College were born in Australia, Iraq, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga, Turkey, Philippines, Syria, Lebanon, India and Pakistan. Just under 2% of the population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.

Mount Ridley P-12 College 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.

Mount Ridley P-12 College 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 Mount Ridley P-12 College 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.

Mount Ridley P-12 College 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 eg sport, concerts, formals, productions, excursions, wellbeing groups, Discovery/Grow Days 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;
- respond to complaints and allegations appropriately and ensure that students are not victimised;
- provide a Community Hub focused on supporting our diverse cultural groups;
- employ Multicultural aides to support enhanced communication and engagement with our predominant cultural groups;
- continue to resource our Student Services unit, ensuring ongoing and appropriate support for our PSD students;
- embrace and celebrate diversity by actively promoting and participating in key celebratory events such as Harmony Day and NAIDOC Week; and
- engage the support and assistance of Koorie Education Support Officers (KESO) for the purpose of working closely with our indigenous families.

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 Mount Ridley P-12 College. 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.

Reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities

Mount Ridley P-12 College 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. Our College may consult through Student Support Group processes and in other less formal ways. 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 College *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* policy or contact our Director of Student Services for further information.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

This policy will be communicated to our College community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our College's website;
- Included in induction processes for relevant staff;
- Included in our staff handbook/manual;
- Discussed at annual staff briefings/meetings;
- Discussed at student forums;
- Reminders in our school newsletter; and
- Made available from College administration upon request.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Mount Ridley P-12 College policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement,
- Statement of Values
- Bullying Prevention policies
- Equal Opportunity Policy
- Integration Policy

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

Created date	May – June 2022
Consultation	Various staff groups May – June Students 2 nd June College Council 10 th June - 21 st June
Endorsed by	Principal – Carmelo Pagano
Endorsed on	21 st June
Next review date	June 2024 (every two years)