



MULTI-CULTURAL POLICY

1. Rationale or Purpose

The Somerville Rise school community contributes to Victoria's cultural and linguistic diversity. Schools assist all students to develop the understanding, knowledge and skills to contribute to, and benefit from the diversity that characterises our globalised world.

2. Policy Statement

Victoria is a culturally and linguistically diverse state. The population is characterised by increasing mobility and social interaction based on dynamic communities of varied geographic, cultural and social networks. Victorians originate from over 230 nations with one person in four being born overseas. We speak approximately 180 different languages and follow at least 116 different religions. Somerville Rise Primary School is at the forefront in the effort to equip our young people with the skills and knowledge to be successful global citizens, able to appreciate and interact with people of all backgrounds.

The Principles of Multiculturalism

Somerville Rise Primary School adheres to the following principles of Multiculturalism. The Principles of Multiculturalism statement included in the *Multicultural Victoria Act 2004* recognise the fact that Victorians come from diverse cultural, religious, racial and linguistic backgrounds. It places value on the richness that such diversity brings to the Victorian community. Parliament supports the obligations of citizenship and promotes the diversity to which it refers by recognising the following principles:

- all individuals in Victoria are entitled to mutual respect and understanding regardless of their cultural, religious, racial and linguistic backgrounds
- all individuals and institutions in Victoria should promote and preserve diversity and cultural heritage within the context of shared laws, values, aspirations and responsibilities
- all individuals in Victoria (regardless of background) have shown that they can work together to build a positive and progressive future and this co-operation is to be encouraged so as to enhance Victoria as a great place in which to live, work, invest and raise a family.

Programs /Budget area

Program	Sub Program	Level 4 Code	Level 5 Code
Student Wellbeing		520	
	Student Wellbeing (Multi-cultural Program)		5201

3. Implementation :

What is Multicultural Education?

In line with The Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood policy, Somerville Rise Primary School is committed to the development of an education system where all students are empowered to take advantage of our community's economic, social and individual opportunity. Just as racism and prejudice cannot be permitted to hinder the progress of any individual, all our young people are entitled to benefit from the richness of our multicultural society, and develop the understandings and skills to contribute as confident world citizens.

Multicultural Education is not a discreet learning area, or simply the provision of Languages other than English (LOTE) and English as a Second Language (ESL). Multicultural Education ensures that all students have access to inclusive teaching and learning experiences. These experiences will enable students to participate successfully in a rapidly changing world where cross-cultural understanding and intercultural communication skills are essential.

In the Somerville Rise Primary School context and with the support of school policies, programs and practices, Multicultural Education helps students to develop:

- proficiency in English
- competency in a language or languages other than English
- in depth knowledge and awareness of their own and other cultures
- an understanding of the multicultural nature of Australia's past and present history
- an understanding of, and skills to interact in, intercultural settings
- an appreciation of the importance of local, national and international interdependence in social, environmental, economical and political arenas and an understanding that mutual support in these areas is vital to local and global harmony.

Somerville Rise Primary School ensures multicultural perspectives are incorporated into all aspects of school life by:

- promoting diversity as a positive learning experience
- incorporating multicultural perspectives across all learning domains
- incorporating multicultural, anti-racism, and human rights perspectives in school policies and practices
- enhancing teachers' and students' intercultural understanding and cross-cultural communication skills
- ensuring that all school policies, including three year strategic and annual plans, Codes of Conduct, dress codes and discipline policies reflect the diverse nature of the school community.

4. Evaluation and review

A review of the Multicultural Policy will be undertaken every two years.

The review will be the responsibility of the school's Leadership Team and will be based on feedback from participants and other staff members responsible for the policy's implementation.

This policy was ratified by school council on June 2009