Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to explain Buninyong 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. Buninyong Primary 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

Buninyong Primary 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.

Buninyong Primary School acknowledges and celebrates the diversity of backgrounds and experiences in our school community. This includes:

- Celebrating Harmony Week with a range of activities across 5 days
- Starting each assembly with an Acknowledgement of Country
- The Story of Buninyong project
- A performance celebrating indigenous culture at our concert

Buninyong Primary School will not tolerate behaviours, language or practices that label, stereotype or demean others.

Buninyong Primary School 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 reasonable and/or necessary, are accommodated to participate in education and all school activities (e.g., schools sports, concerts, camps, etc) 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.

Buninyong Primary School will take appropriate measures, consistent with its Student Wellbeing and Engagement and Bullying Prevention policies to respond to discriminatory behaviour or harassment at our school.

Buninyong Primary 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. For more information about support available for students with disabilities, please refer to our school’s Student Wellbeing and Engagement policy or contact the Assistant Principal for Student Engagement and Wellbeing on 5341 3560 for further information.

Further Information and Resources

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 on a two year basis, or earlier as required, following analysis of school data on cultural diversity, students with disabilities and other additional needs to ensure that the policy remains up to date, practical and effective.

Proposed amendments to this policy will be discussed with consultation with student groups, the Student Engagement and Wellbeing team, leadership team and school council.
Review Cycle

This policy was last updated on 25th of March, 2019 and is scheduled for review in March, 2021.