

NSW Department of Education Multicultural Education Policy

This policy responds to the cultural diversity of NSW. It commits schools to providing opportunities that enable all students to achieve equitable education and social outcomes, and to participate successfully in our culturally diverse society.

1 Objectives – policy statement

1.1 Community harmony is promoted through school policies and practices which counter racism and intolerance, and develop intercultural understanding.

1.2 Schools will provide teaching and learning programs that enable all students to identify as Australians within a democratic multicultural society, and to develop the knowledge, skills and values for participation as active citizens.

1.3 Schools will ensure inclusive teaching practices which recognise and value backgrounds of all students and promote an open and tolerant attitude towards different cultures, languages, religions and world views.

1.4 Students who are learning English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D) are provided with appropriate support to develop their English language and literacy skills so that they are able to fully participate in schooling and achieve equitable educational outcomes.

1.5 Schools, through differentiated curriculum and specific teaching and learning programs, will address the learning needs of students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds requiring specific support.

1.6 Schools will promote positive community relations through effective communication with parents and community members from diverse cultural, linguistic and religious backgrounds, and by encouraging their active engagement in the life of the school.

2 Audience and applicability

2.1 This policy applies to all staff employed in NSW public schools, educational services teams and state offices. It also applies to students who attend NSW Government schools and has implications for each school community.

3 Context

3.1 The cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of NSW is reflected in its students, staff and school communities. Approximately one third of all students in NSW Government schools come from language backgrounds other than English, both overseas and Australian and Australian born. These students speak over 230 different languages and hold a range of religious and spiritual beliefs.

3.2 The Multicultural NSW Act (2000) recognises and values the cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of NSW. Under the act, Multicultural NSW is legislated to act across government and across the whole community to promote and foster social harmony, and to maximise the benefits of cultural diversity.

3.3 The principles of multiculturalism contained within the Multicultural NSW Act (2000) provide the framework for the implementation of this Multicultural Education Policy.

.....

Additionally at Illaroo Road Public School:

- We promote tolerance, and develop intercultural understanding through teaching and learning programs, especially those developed in history and geography, examining the diversity of Australian society and a

comparative understanding of Australian and other cultures. In addition, all Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6) students study the language and culture of Indonesia.

- All Year 3-6 students participate in the Multicultural Perspectives Public Speaking Competition, with a focus on multiculturalism and anti-racism in Australia.
- We are eager to participate in activities highlighting understanding, empathy and co-operation between cultures. Therefore we support events such as Harmony Day, NAIDOC Week and UNICEF Day for Children.
- Students from backgrounds where English is an additional language (EAL/D) and refugee students are provided with programs to support their particular needs.
- For further information about supporting EAL/D students go to https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/policies/student_serv/equity/comm_rela/eald_advice.pdf
- The school anti-racism contact officer, currently the Deputy Principal, has the responsibility for investigating any racist incidents in school and maintaining the anti-racism register.