



## CLEMTON PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

*Pursuing Excellence*

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PRINCIPAL: Angelica Lapi

# Cultural Diversity and Community Relations Policy: Multicultural education in schools

## Objectives

Community harmony at Clemton Park Public School is promoted through school policies and practices which counter racism and intolerance and develop understanding of cultural, linguistic and religious differences.

Clemton Park Public School will provide teaching and learning programs that enable students from all cultures and communities to identify as Australians within a democratic multicultural society and to develop the knowledge, skills and values for participation as active citizens.

Clemton Park Public School will ensure inclusive teaching practices which recognise and value the backgrounds and cultures of all students and promote an open and tolerant attitude towards different cultures, religions and world views

Students who are learning English as a second language 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.

Clemton Park Public School will provide specific teaching and learning programs to support the particular learning needs of targeted students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Clemton Park Public School will promote positive community relations through effective communication with parents and community members from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds and by encouraging their participation in the life of the school.

## Audience and applicability

This policy applies to all staff at Clemton Park Public School. It also applies to students who attend Clemton Park Public School and has implications for each school community.

## Context

The cultural, linguistic and religious diversity of New South Wales is reflected in its students, staff and school communities. Approximately one quarter of all students in NSW government schools come from language backgrounds other than English, both overseas and Australian born. At Clemton Park Public School 84% of students come from language backgrounds other than English.

The Community Relations Commission and Principles of Multiculturalism Act (2000) recognises and values the different linguistic, religious and ethnic backgrounds of the people of New South Wales. It also promotes the equal rights and responsibilities of all the people of the state within a cohesive and harmonious multicultural society in which diversity is regarded as a strength and an asset, individuals share a commitment to Australia and English is the common language.

Under the Act, the Community Relations Commission for a multicultural NSW (CRC) 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.

The Principles of Multiculturalism provide the framework for the implementation of the *Cultural Diversity and Community Relations Policy*:

- All individuals in New South Wales should have the greatest possible opportunity to contribute to, and participate in, all aspects of public life in which they may legally participate.
- All individuals and institutions should respect and make provision for the culture, language and religion of others within an Australian legal and institutional framework where English is the common language.
- All individuals should have the greatest possible opportunity to make use of and participate in relevant activities and programs provided or administered by the Government of New South Wales.
- All institutions of New South Wales should recognise the linguistic and cultural assets in the population of New South Wales as a valuable resource and promote this resource to maximise the development of the State.

## **Responsibilities and delegations**

The Principal and the school based committee is responsible for ensuring that the Department's policies and procedures are consistent with the *Principles of Multiculturalism* through the implementation of the *Cultural Diversity and Community Relations Policy* in schools, regions and state offices.

The Principal is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the policy in schools and regions through including strategies for multicultural education in regional plans.

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that school policies, practices and teaching and learning programs are consistent with the policy and for including relevant strategies for multicultural education in school plans.

The Manager of Multicultural Programs, as policy contact person, is responsible for provision of advice on the interpretation and implementation of the policy and support material.

## **Monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements**

Clemton Park Public School will report progress in implementing the *Cultural Diversity and Community Relations Policy* through the schools website

Clemton Park Public School will report annually on achievements in multicultural education in our school annual report.