



Elwood Primary School No 3942

Scott Street, Elwood 3184

Telephone 9531 2762 Fax 9531 5497

PROGRAM: Cultural Diversity

POLICY NO: 19 November 2007

PURPOSE

1. To acknowledge the cultural diversity of Australian society and of our school community.
2. To promote understandings and attitudes which allow all students to participate in our society.
3. To ensure that programs are based on a broad cultural approach.

BROAD GUIDELINES

1. Diversity brings significant educational benefits to all students, teachers and the wider community.
2. The school community is a model of mutual respect, harmony and tolerance.
3. Fundamental similarities between cultures form the basis of a harmonious, culturally diverse society.
4. Students are encouraged to respect differing views and understand the rights of others to hold points of view differing from their own beliefs and value systems.
5. Views from various cultures are presented and discussed. This encourages an understanding of race, ethnicity and cultural background and its contribution to the individual and society.
6. Varied languages and cultures have a worthwhile place in the curriculum and the life of the school and society. A multicultural approach is encouraged within the curriculum and the school environment as this transcends barriers, encourages mutual respect, harmony and tolerance and assists in the integration of all groups into the school and society.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Class teachers are aware of the ethnic and cultural backgrounds of the students in each class and take these into account.
2. Individual children's needs, attitudes and willingness to be identified, or not identified with any group are considered.
3. School programs present to students diverse cultural views and, where possible, students from differing backgrounds are given the opportunity to present information on their cultures and values.
4. Discussion is encouraged about other languages with a view to developing appreciation of the various ways of expressing ideas.
5. Aspects of cultural diversity are regularly incorporated into all curriculum areas as they arise.
6. The school acknowledges significant events from a variety of cultural backgrounds via assemblies, newsletter and school activities.

RESOURCES

1. Staff, students and parents
2. Reference material. eg Interfaith calendar, Kath Murdoch & Julie Hamston *Knowing Me, Knowing You – exploring identity and difference through integrated curriculum*
3. <http://www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/lem/multi/index.htm> Guidelines for Managing Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Schools DEET 2007

REVIEW

in 2010