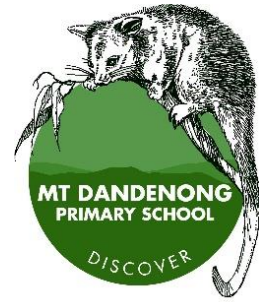


INCLUSION POLICY

Ratified by School Council: 11TH September 2017
Review: 11th September 2020



Rationale

Mt. Dandenong Primary School is a school where the social, emotional, educational and physical needs of all students are of the utmost importance. It is a school that encourages respect for diversity in ability as well as cultural, racial, ethnic and social backgrounds and is based on the notion that we will continually work towards providing for the needs of all students in our community.

Definition

An inclusive school uses its best efforts to cater for all children in its community. It respects diversity in ability as well as cultural, racial, ethnic, religious and social backgrounds.

Aims

- To ensure the school accommodates the individual needs of every student
- To acknowledge that all students have their own learning styles
- Inclusive practices are established across all areas of the school
- The notion of inclusiveness underpins this policy.

The role of leadership and the teacher to support inclusive practices

- The school will aim to have completed applications for support funding in a timely manner through the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD) if deemed eligible.
- Termly student support groups (SSG) are an integral part of the process for catering for students with a disability and support the ongoing management of individual learning plans (ILPs) created by the classroom teacher, with parent input.
- Once enrolled, termly SSGs will occur for students funded under the Program for Students with Disabilities and include the class teacher, parents/carers, principal or nominee. Others may be invited, such as education support staff and allied health staff such as psychologists and speech pathologists
 - Sufficient time will be set aside to allow for a full range of discussion to occur at SSGs
- Any member of the SSG may request an extra SSG if required
- Full inclusion at Mt. Dandenong Primary School means that all students are involved in classroom programs. Withdrawal is a non-preferred option
- Appropriate professional development will be made available to teachers, leadership, education support staff and, where possible, made available to the school community
- As particular needs are identified, appropriate resources will be sought so that the school can continue to meet the needs of each child.
- Celebration of diversity will be encouraged at Mt. Dandenong Primary School
- The environment will be established to cater for students with additional learning needs in a variety of different ways.
- Individual learning plans must be developed and reviewed regularly for the following students:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (each term)
 - Students that are funded under the Program for Students with Disabilities (each term)

- Students that receive support for English as an additional Language (EAL)
- Students with behavioural challenges but not funded through the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD)
- Students with a diagnosed disability but not funded through the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD)
- Students with severe social and emotional needs but not funded through the Program for Students with Disabilities (PSD)

The role of the teacher to support inclusive practices

- Appropriate classroom resources to be in place after enrolment is confirmed.
- As particular needs are identified, appropriate resources will be sought so that the school can continue to meet the needs of each child.
- The class teacher is responsible for program development.
- Opportunities for discussion with all students in the home group/ area will be encouraged to facilitate greater understanding, respect and acceptance.
- Teachers are encouraged to access the school's variety of resources on inclusion for staff in the form of written materials and books, information available through the DET website, physical materials in classrooms and professional development.
- Adjustments must be made to all school activities to enable every child to access everything offered such as school camps, excursions, performances and specialist programs.
- Every student will be provided with a curriculum based at their level. This will be in the form of the Victorian Curriculum or Abilities Based Learning and Education Support curriculum (ABLES), based on assessments completed by the school and professional recommendations.
- The classroom teacher will review recommendations by professionals for students in their class.
- Teachers are encouraged to develop regular communication between families of students they support.

The role of Education Support Staff (ESS) to support inclusive practices

- ESS are responsible for implementing the program developed by the teacher and adjusting the delivery to best support the needs of the student.
- ESS are encouraged to develop regular communication between families of students they support. Communication is to be fed back to the teacher. Support from Service Providers
- The school will access support from the region's Autism Coach, Koorie Education Officer and Student Support Services Officer (SSSOs).
- The school will liaise with Early Childhood Intervention Services (ECIS) to support students with a disability before their commencement at school.
- Where needed, the school will work with health professionals such as speech therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, the school nurse and paediatricians to support all students' needs.
- The school will maintain ongoing communication with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Inclusion Support for Parents of our School

- A reduced time fraction at school for students with additional needs may be implemented as agreed between parents and the principal or nominee and signed off, the aim always being to build up to full time hours for the student at school as soon as possible.
- Appropriate professional development will be made available to teachers, education support staff and, where possible, made available to the school community.
- The school will support families in accessing 'Child First', to support families going through separation, mental illness and economic or social disadvantage.