



## **Social Cohesion Policy**

### **1. Rationale**

Kirrawee High School has a proud tradition of (co-)curricula achievement, which includes large areas of activity that cross social justice, leadership, arts and sport. The school takes pride that this achievement is expressed by the full diversity of students within our community. It is therefore paramount that everyone feels included and that we uphold the right of all students to education in a safe, nurturing and pro-active environment. As a learning community we reject all discrimination, cherishing and fostering a sense of belonging.

Diversity is a cause for celebration; it enhances self-esteem, is a source of new ideas and the building of connections. Significantly, it provides a healthy challenge to views and ideas, which is fundamental to maintaining a healthy democracy. Kirrawee High takes an optimistic and mutually beneficial outlook of an interconnected global community.

### **2. Aims**

- 2.1 To promote harmonious interactions in which courtesy, respect, dignity and grace are upheld at all times.
- 2.2 To reject all forms of bullying behaviour:
  - 2.2.1 virtual, cyber or in person;
  - 2.2.2 that can cause harm or exclude in order to misuse power.
- 2.3 To reject all harassment and vilification:
  - 2.3.1 working to create safe environments where all are accepted and valued;
  - 2.3.1 raising awareness for empathy towards, and trust of, others.
- 2.4 To foster strong links with the parent/carer community in order to build social cohesion.
- 2.5 To promote language that builds community rather than excludes individuals or groups.
- 2.6 To reinforce and encourage moral reasoning supported by strong ethical frameworks:
  - 2.6.1 supporting acceptance and inclusion;
  - 2.6.2 upholding fundamental human rights within Education Department policy;
  - 2.6.3 promoting freedom of respectful expression;
  - 2.6.4 supporting activities that imbue values of compassion, altruism and a sense of personal and collective meaning in life.

### **3. Implementation**

- 3.2 The above aims are expressed through the Kirrawee High Code of Behaviour and Values.
- 3.3 All members of our school community are responsible for and have a role to play in maintaining and building the aims of this policy.
- 3.4 Building social cohesion starts in the classroom and is the basis of promoting the best learning outcomes for all.
- 3.5 Kirrawee High recognises that moving beyond our school gates – virtually or physically – and connecting with other schools and communities is fundamental to building inclusive values, recognising that an inward and narrow focus may lead to exclusionary behaviours.
- 3.5 An active leadership and social justice culture within the school is an essential factor in maintaining and recognising social cohesion.





#### **4. Associated Documents**

- 4.1. Dept of Education - <https://antibullying.nsw.gov.au/>
- 4.2. Dept of Education - <https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/connect/anti-racism>,
- 4.3. Kirrawee High Code of Behaviour
- 4.4. Kirrawee High Wellbeing Policy

#### **5. Evaluation**

- 5.1. This policy will be evaluated as part of a three year cycle or when necessary

#### **6. Contact**

- 6.1. Senior Executive

