



INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact
mentone.girls.sc@education.vic.gov.au

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to explain how Mentone Girls' Secondary College works to make sure every member of our school community is treated with respect and dignity, regardless of their background or personal attributes. This policy should be read alongside the following department policies:

- [Equal Opportunity and Human Rights - Students](#)
- For staff, the [Respectful Workplaces](#) policies (including [Equal Opportunity – Employees](#), [Sexual Harassment – Employees](#) and [Workplace Bullying](#)) as these whole of department policies apply to all staff at Mentone Girls' Secondary College.

POLICY

Definitions

Personal attribute: a personal characteristic that is protected by State or Commonwealth anti-discrimination legislation. These include: race, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religious belief or activity, political belief or activity, age, intersex status, physical features, pregnancy, carer and parental status, breastfeeding, marital or relationship status, lawful sexual activity, employment activity, industrial activity, expunged homosexual conviction or personal association with anyone who is identified with reference to any protected attribute.

Direct discrimination: unfavourable treatment because of a person's protected attribute.

Indirect discrimination: imposing an unreasonable requirement, condition or practice that disadvantages a person or group of people with a protected attribute.

Sexual harassment: unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature towards another person which could reasonably be expected to make that other person feel offended, humiliated or intimidated. It may be physical, verbal, visual or written.

Disability harassment: an action taken in relation to the person's disability that is reasonably likely, in all the circumstances, to humiliate, offend, intimidate or distress the person.

Vilification: conduct that incites hatred towards or revulsion or severe ridicule of a person or group of people on the basis of their race or religion.

Victimisation: subjecting a person or threatening to subject them to detrimental treatment because they (or their associate) have made an allegation of discrimination or harassment on the basis of a protected attribute (or asserted their rights under relevant policies or law).

Inclusion and diversity

Mentone Girls' Secondary College strives to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment which values the human rights of all students and staff.

Mentone Girls' Secondary College is committed to creating a school community where all members of our school community are welcomed, accepted and treated equitably and with respect regardless of their backgrounds or personal attributes such as race, language, religious beliefs, gender identity, disability or sexual orientation so that they can participate, achieve and thrive at school.

Mentone Girls' Secondary College acknowledges and celebrates the diversity of backgrounds and experiences in our school community, and we do not tolerate behaviours, language or practices that label, stereotype or demean others.

At Mentone Girls' Secondary College we value the human rights of every student and we take our obligations under anti-discrimination laws and the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities seriously.

Mentone Girls' Secondary College:

- actively nurtures and promotes a culture where everyone is treated with respect and dignity
- ensures that students are not discriminated against (directly or indirectly) and where necessary, are reasonably accommodated to participate in their education and school activities (e.g. schools sports, concerts, [formals, you can add other examples appropriate to your school]) on the same basis as their peers
- acknowledges and responds to the diverse needs, identities and strengths of all students
- encourages empathy and fairness towards others
- challenges stereotypes that promote prejudicial and biased behaviours and practices
- contributes to positive learning, engagement and wellbeing outcomes for students
- responds to complaints and allegations appropriately and ensure that students are not victimised.

Bullying, unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and other forms of inappropriate behaviour targeting individuals or groups because of their personal attributes is not tolerated at Mentone Girls' Secondary College. We will take appropriate measures, consistent with our Student Wellbeing and Engagement and Bullying policies to respond to students who demonstrate these behaviours at our school. Students who may have experienced or witnessed this type of behaviour are encouraged to speak up and to let their teachers, parents or carers know about those behaviours to ensure that inappropriate behaviour can be addressed.



Reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities

Mentone Girls' Secondary College also understands that it has a legal obligation to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate students with disabilities. A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to assist students with disabilities to participate in their education on the same basis as their peers in accordance with the department's [Students with Disability Policy](#). Reasonable adjustments are made for students with disabilities in consultation with the student, their parents or carers, their teachers and if appropriate, their treating practitioners. Our school may consult through Student Support Group processes and in other less formal ways. For more information about support available for students with disabilities and communicating with us in relation to a student's disability, please refer to our school's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement policy* or contact mentone.girls.sc@education.vic.gov.au

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community via the school website.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Information on related policies including *Student Wellbeing and Engagement*, *Child Safety (and wellbeing)*, *Statement of Values and School Philosophy*, *Bullying Prevention* can be found on the College website: <https://mgsc.vic.edu.au/our-college/policies>

POLICY REVIEW & APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2026
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	2030 (3-4 years)