



# DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

## GUIDANCE FOR TEACHERS

.....

This information will assist educators to use the diversity and inclusion video in the classroom to promote respectful and inclusive behaviours.

.....

Schools teach and support children from a diverse range of backgrounds across South Australia. At school, students meet other students, teachers, and members of the school community who speak different languages, come from different cultures, religions, abilities, genders, sexuality, family backgrounds and life experiences.

Providing students with opportunities to understand themselves and others, manage relationships and reflect on different life experiences are important skills. It forms a core part of the General Capabilities (Intercultural Understanding and Personal and Social Capability).

.....

### Promoting diversity and creating an inclusive environment

Building a respectful and inclusive classroom environment is fundamental to helping students feel safe and supported at school.

There are lots of ways that teachers can make their classrooms inclusive:

- challenging discriminatory language, stereotypes, behaviours and beliefs
- acknowledging and promoting different social, educational and cultural influences

- incorporating Aboriginal history, identity and contemporary culture into teaching and learning
  - inviting speakers from a diverse range of communities, backgrounds and life experiences
  - learning from students and parents about diverse cultures and identities, and incorporating this knowledge in curriculum, programs, teaching practices and physical environments
  - promoting connections between students through cooperative learning groups
  - modelling positive, respectful and inclusive behaviours towards others
  - promoting student wellbeing and mental health through social and emotional learning - teaching skills to improve problem solving, conflict resolution and resilience.
- .....

### Using the diversity and inclusion video as a resource

The Diversity and Inclusion video can be used to promote respectful and inclusive behaviours, or in response to bullying incidents.

Schools may choose to show the video at a school assembly to highlight the importance of respect, inclusion and diversity at the school.

Teachers can use the video in class and follow up with a discussion or learning task. The video can be used to develop a number of important skills, including:

- respect for cultural diversity
- consider and develop multiple perspectives
- empathise with others
- challenge stereotypes and prejudices
- recognise emotions
- recognise personal qualities and achievements
- appreciate diverse perspectives
- understand relationships.

#### Conversation starters for primary students:

- What examples did the students give about the ways we can be different? What are some other examples?
- How would you make someone feel accepted and included at school?
- A student in the video talks about having mixed emotions and feeling lonely. Describe some situations that may make someone feel like this.
- What are the ways that people can be different? What are the ways they can be similar? Consider appearance, abilities and skills, culture and language, families, interests.
- What are the similarities and differences between you and your classmates? Are there good things about being different? About being similar?
- What are the different communities that you belong to? What are the things you can do to make a difference in these communities?
- What could you do to help if you do not feel included?

#### Conversation starters for secondary students:

- A student in the video talks about having a range of different cultural backgrounds and experiencing discrimination. What challenges do you think might be experienced by someone in that situation at school and/or in the community?
- Students in the video discuss a range of emotions in response to feeling excluded. How might this affect their responses to people at school and in the community?

- What helped these students to feel supported and included? Describe other ways to help someone feel included and accepted at school.
- How were you able to overcome challenges through your personal strengths? What did you learn about yourself in the process?
- What are the challenges and benefits of living in a diverse society? What skills are needed to help everyone contribute to their communities?
- Give an example of how different groups within society can have different values, opinions and attitudes. What might have contributed to these differences?

## Further teaching resources

A range of resources are available to help schools to support a diverse range of students and build inclusive environments:

[Racist Bullying: guidance for teachers](#)

[Intercultural understanding \(Australian Curriculum – General capabilities\)](#)

[Personal and Social Capability \(Australian Curriculum – General capabilities\)](#)

[Growing competence in working with Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures – resources and related information](#)

The English as an additional language or dialect (EALD) program offers a range of [support services and curriculum](#) for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) students and their families both within and outside the school environment.

[Special Education Resource Unit \(SERU\)](#) - provides educators with services, advice and specialised support materials to help educators personalise teaching and learning programs.

The [SBS Cultural Atlas](#) – provides factual information about Australia's migrant populations.

The Student Wellbeing Hub provides a range of teaching resources about [diversity and inclusion](#).

The Australian Government provides a range of [lesson plans and teaching resources](#) that promote inclusion and diversity for Harmony Week.