

Multicultural Education

Preamble:

Australian society is, and has always been multicultural. The Aims of Multicultural Education encompass the provision of educational experiences which will develop in all children:

- An understanding and appreciation that Australia has been multicultural in nature throughout its history, before and after European colonisation
- An awareness of the contribution which people of many different cultural backgrounds have made and are making to Australia
- Intercultural understanding through the consideration of attitudes, beliefs and values related to multiculturalism
- Behaviour that fosters interethnic harmony
- An enhanced sense of personal worth through an acceptance and appreciation not only of Australian national identity, but also of specific Australian ethnic identity in the context of a multicultural society.

Staff and students need to recognise that *all* Australians have an ethnic (cultural) identity. This may be Aboriginal, English speaking, or a language background other than English. This is a link with cultural heritage, and a focus on a sense of belonging within a group.

Increasing numbers of students from a language and cultural background other than English are enrolling into Katoomba High School. Within the school's commitment to quality, creativity and diversity, the school must address the needs of students.

For the majority of students, the Multicultural Education Policy needs to focus upon positive exposure to the variety of cultures within Australian society. This is in order to overcome "ethno-centrism" and to experience and to value the enrichment that cultural diversity brings.

Katoomba High School will respond positively to the diversity of our society by

- Fostering cultural pluralism by taking steps to provide educational opportunities which promote a positive understanding that Australia has *always* been multicultural in nature maintaining the study of many cultures, incorporating the multicultural Australian experience across the curriculum (*ALL Australians have an ethnic-cultural identity*), continuing to encourage and maintain contact with schools, community groups and individuals in other cultures
- Integrating intercultural understanding in all faculties' programs through the consideration of multicultural attitudes, beliefs and values, ensuring that a range of educational initiatives is in place to prevent educational disadvantage striving to develop students' individuality, excellence and achievement of fluency in all aspects of language and learning supporting the teaching of LOTE, including community languages encouraging and supporting behaviour which fosters interethnic harmony, enhancing sense of personal worth of students and staff, ensuring that anti discrimination strategies are in place, and are promoted to, and accessible to the school community.