Rationale

* The Victorian Government’s vision is for all Victorian learning and development settings to equip children and young people with the knowledge and skills to participate in and contribute to our diverse society as active and informed citizens - locally, nationally and internationally.
* Citizenship and informed civic participation are the cornerstones of our successful, cohesive and prosperous multicultural, secular and multi-faith society. Civic, citizenship and multicultural education support children and young people to understand their roles, rights and responsibilities as citizens, and to know how to contribute actively to civic life and to interact harmoniously with the diverse cultures and faiths in their local, state, national and global communities.

Purpose

* To ensure Charles La Trobe College is aware of *Unity through Diversity,* the Victorian Government’s vision for civics, citizenship and multicultural education.
* To ensure the College complies with DET policy and guidelines and the legislative requirements including the *Multicultural Victoria Act 2011,*
* To develop an ethos that reflects, responds to and values multiculturalism.
* To ensure the College complies with Child Safe Standards 1 & 2.

Definitions

* Multicultural education is not a discrete learning area, or simply the provision of Languages and English as an Additional Language (EAL).
* Multicultural education makes sure that all children have access to inclusive teaching and learning experiences. These experiences allow children to successfully take part in a rapidly changing world where cross-cultural understanding and intercultural communication skills are essential.

Implementation

* The wellbeing of all young persons at this College is our highest priority.
* The principles of multiculturalism will underpin all aspects of school life, the policies, the curriculum and programs.
* The school will ensure that children develop:
* proficiency in English (English Another Language for new arrivals)
* competency in a language or languages other than English
* in depth knowledge and awareness of their own and other cultures
* an understanding of the multicultural nature of Australia’s past and present history
* an understanding of, and skills to interact in, intercultural settings
* an appreciation of the importance of local, national and international interdependence in social, environmental, economic and political arenas and an understanding that mutual support in these areas is vital to local and global harmony
* We will promote diversity by ensuring that learning experiences recognise, value and build on children’s backgrounds and experiences.
* Our Student Engagement Policy, Dress Code, and our School Strategic Plan will all acknowledge and cater for our cultural diversity and the principles of multiculturalism.
* All staff will model culturally inclusive behaviour, and report to the Campus Principal any behaviour that appears racist, discriminatory, prejudiced or culturally biased.
* We will promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.
* Essential notices, newsletters, student reports, permission forms etc. will be provided in languages consistent with the needs of community members. Interpreters will be arranged where required.
* The College will provide languages education. Please refer also to the school’s *Curriculum Framework Policy*.
* Please refer also to the school’s *Dress Code Policy,* the *Discipline (Overview) Policy,* the *Student Engagement (Overview) Policy* and the Child Safe Standards.

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update mid-January 2016).

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the College Council on 15th of February, 2018.

References

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/pages/multiculturalism.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/pages/multiculturalism.aspx)

 [www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/cultures/Pages/unitydiversity/aspx?Redirect=1](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/cultures/Pages/unitydiversity/aspx?Redirect=1)