



Horsham Special School is a child safe school

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Horsham Special School – Democratic Principles and Philosophy

Our school mission / motto is:
Celebrating Diverse Abilities

Horsham Special School vision, mission, values and objectives

To encourage and enable all students, staff and the school community to achieve their full potential in a safe, caring and stimulating learning and social environment and to promote Horsham Special School in the wider community.

The school community prides itself on 4 sets of values:

- Respect and Responsibility
- Doing Your Personal Best
- Supporting One Another
- Staying Safe and Healthy

In accordance the principles outlined in the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic), as a Victorian government school, the programs of, and teaching at Horsham Special School will support and promote the principles and practices of Australian democracy including a commitment to:

- An elected government
- The rule of law
- Equal rights for all before the law
- Freedom of religion
- Freedom of speech and association
- The values of openness and tolerance

Also, in accordance with the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic), the school will provide a secular education and will not promote any particular religious practice, denomination or sect and is open to adherents of any philosophy, religion or faith.

CHILD SAFETY STATEMENT

Horsham Special School considers the **safety** of children as being our highest priority. Our school is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making. Our school has a **zero tolerance** of child abuse.

Horsham Special School's vision is to provide authentic learning opportunities that empower all students to achieve their academic and personal best. Horsham Special School's mission is based on the fundamentals of providing our students with an education that reduces vulnerability through education, communication, and positive relationships.

School Profile

Horsham Special School was established in 1988, moving to its current site in 2013. It has a wide enrolment base, drawing from the local area to as far as the South Australian border including Nhill, Dimboola, Kaniva, Goroke, Edenhope and Serviceton. Horsham Special School provides educational programs for students aged 5-18 years displaying mild; moderate and severe diagnoses associated with cognitive, physical, social, emotional, behavioural, sensory and multiple disabilities. The school's overarching purpose is to encourage and enable all students, staff and the school community to achieve their full potential. The safe, caring and stimulating school environment focuses on our key values of *Respect and Responsibility, Doing Your Personal Best, Supporting One Another, and Staying Safe and Healthy*.

The school's dedicated staff provides a highly individualised educational program for each student. This is not confined to the classroom and physical building, but extends into outdoor play spaces and indeed the local community in which we live. The individual programs are prepared and delivered by teachers, along with their assistants and are reviewed regularly to ensure student needs are being met. Integral to the Horsham Special School Curriculum is the programming provided by specialist and therapy staff. The school offers focussed support in the areas of Exercise Physiology, Physiological Therapy, Welfare, Speech Therapy, Vocational Education and Sensory Development. The physical environment complements the programming, with a state of the art purpose built special school. It comprises a fully equipped commercial style kitchen and café area, open art workshop, sensory courtyard, open learning spaces, sensory room, therapy rooms, kitchenettes and architecturally designed playgrounds.

The curriculum at Horsham Special School is both functional and practical, divided into the following focus areas: Functional Academics; Home & Community Living Skills; Personal & Social Development; and Communication. Each student has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) developed for them; containing goals from each of these focus areas which make up their program.

Implementation of school philosophy

This school philosophy will be central to all:

- school initiatives, policies and practices;
- teaching and learning programs;
- internal and external interactions;
- organisational structures and practices; and
- dealings with parents, the School Council and the community.

Regular evaluation processes will be in place to measure performance in all areas of the school with respect to the implementation of the vision and values of the school.

This document, along with all philosophy and democratic principles can be found on the Horsham Special School website and as a hard copy in the school reception.

Review Process

This policy was last updated on October 2019 and is scheduled for review in November 2021.