Building Respect and Global Citizenship

CORE VALUES OF VICTORIA AND THE SMART CLASSROOM

Victoria is a thriving multicultural society. Our population hails from over 230 nations, speaks 180 languages and dialects and follows more than 116 religions. Multicultural education aims to ensure all Victorian students contribute to, and benefit from, cultural and linguistic diversity and a shared social cohesion. Education for Global and Multicultural Citizenship: A Strategy for Victorian Government Schools sets out the vision and strategy for equipping all Victorian government school students with the knowledge, skills and attitudes required for active global and multicultural citizenship.

Education for global and multicultural citizenship is a critical component of 21st-century learning. It enables all Victorian students to prosper and thrive in a world characterised by global mobility and cultural, political and economic interconnectivity.

Victoria is one of the best and safest places to live, work and study.

Students have been attracted to Victoria by the openness and tolerance of our community, our high standard of living, the high quality of our education providers and the fact that Melbourne – where most overseas students choose to live – is one of the most liveable and multicultural cities in the world.

Melbourne is renowned for its tolerance and openness to global ideas and influences – in 2007, the World Competitiveness Yearbook reported that Melbourne’s high quality of life was complemented by a positive attitude towards globalisation and a culture open to new ideas.

To support the promotion of positive and respectful behaviours in our community, the Victorian Government has introduced a Respect Agenda. This agenda promotes community involvement and understanding of difference and diversity, and supports parents to build self-respect in their children.

The definition of respect that underpins this agenda is:

- We respect ourselves by accepting and valuing who we are.
- We respect others by treating people fairly and appreciating different circumstances and views.
- We respect our community by welcoming newcomers and lending a hand to each other.

In the smart classroom students and teachers are connected by respect. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development is contributing to the Government’s Respect agency by building stronger partnerships between schools, parents and community organisations. The Department’s Respect in Schools strategy includes initiatives to support respectful and safe school environments, demonstration projects working in collaboration with community agencies, curriculum guidance and teacher professional learning.