CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS
POLICY

Rationale:

- The secular nature of the Government school system ensures that a wide variety of religious and political viewpoints exist within each school community. Whilst this diversity should be recognised and celebrated, mainstream cultural celebrations should not be ignored or abandoned.

School statement:

- Our school is a multicultural community with a broad range of political, cultural and religious beliefs and viewpoints. At the same time our school is Australian and we live in a predominately Christian society with Christian views.

Aims:

- To ensure that students in our school are able to celebrate mainstream cultural celebrations that are commonplace in our society, whilst at the same time recognising and celebrating the cultural diversity and broad range of viewpoints that exist within our community.

Implementation:

- Our school will provide opportunity for students to celebrate typical special occasions including Christmas and Easter. We will provide students with differing backgrounds, opportunities to participate and feature their own cultural celebrations as appropriate.
- The school will also explore other cultural celebrations that occur within families across the school, and will provide opportunities for children and families to celebrate their special occasions throughout the school year.
- No child will have to participate in cultural celebrations that they or their parents do not approve of, and will instead be provided with alternative educational activities.
- Multicultural events and occasions will be incorporated in school programs as appropriate.
- No staff member will have to participate in cultural celebrations of which they do not approve, but will provide access to such programs or celebrations for their students.
- That information promoting cultural respect and diversity will be provided for the community through newsletters, assemblies and community events.
- Acknowledgement of country will be undertaken at significant school events such as assemblies and official openings.

Evaluation:
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s four-year review cycle.

Reviewed May 2012 Marc Blanks

This policy was last ratified by School Council in.... July 2012

References: Circular 392/2005 Celebration of Christmas in Schools