

## EDUCATION FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING POLICY

### *Rationale*

EMU is about developing self respect and respect for others and the improvement of relationships between people of differing cultural traditions. It means learning to live with and appreciate human differences of all kinds. It is also about preparing students to deal constructively with conflict.

### *Purposes*

Our EMU programme is designed to provide opportunities for our students to explore who they are culturally and move towards developing an understanding and respect for others.

An effective EMU programme should:

- Not only promote but celebrate diversity
- Challenge us, as Catholics, to be multicultural and embrace diversity
- Enhance the delivery of a quality faith based education
- Promote respect and value for self and others;
- Appreciate the benefits of resolving conflict by non-violent means.

### *Guidelines*

EMU is promoted in a variety of ways –

- Within the formal programme of study - delivery of the curriculum allows for fulfilment of EMU objectives;
- All departments encourage discussion, questioning of facts and critical evaluation in their everyday teaching. Positive contributions are praised;
- Students are given opportunities to examine evidence, assess the value of data and statistics and make informed judgements;
- Group work is promoted and teachers strive to link their teaching material to other subjects and recent news events/current affairs. Situations are not contrived, but arise naturally out of material being studied.
- EMU is promoted widely through an interschool and cross community context. Students are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities, including sporting, cultural and conservation events, quizzes and competitions
- School trips and exchange visits provide first hand opportunities to develop cultural understanding. This is also enhanced by the charities and sponsorship schemes supported by the various year groups.

Every student is encouraged to see him/herself as a valued member of the school community - this is promoted by every teacher in his/her daily teaching and is reinforced through form/year assemblies, the Peer Support system, Student Council and our Pastoral Care Programme.