

Policy: **Inclusion**



**St Edward's
College**
Founded 1929

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Who we are

Mission Statement

At St Edward's College we strive to create exemplary citizens in this increasingly globalised and technological world, placing strong emphasis on character formation, genuine intercultural understanding and leadership skills which will assist them to contribute to the well-being of society.

About us

At St Edward's College, we believe that all students, regardless of their background, ability, race, gender, religion, or any other characteristic, deserve equal opportunities to learn, grow, and succeed. Our commitment to inclusion is rooted in the values of Virtue and Honor. Every student is valued and respected and given the tools and resources needed to strive and succeed to the best of one's ability by achieving one's full potential. Decisions are taken with respect, kindness, and fairness towards all.

Definition and Objectives

Definition

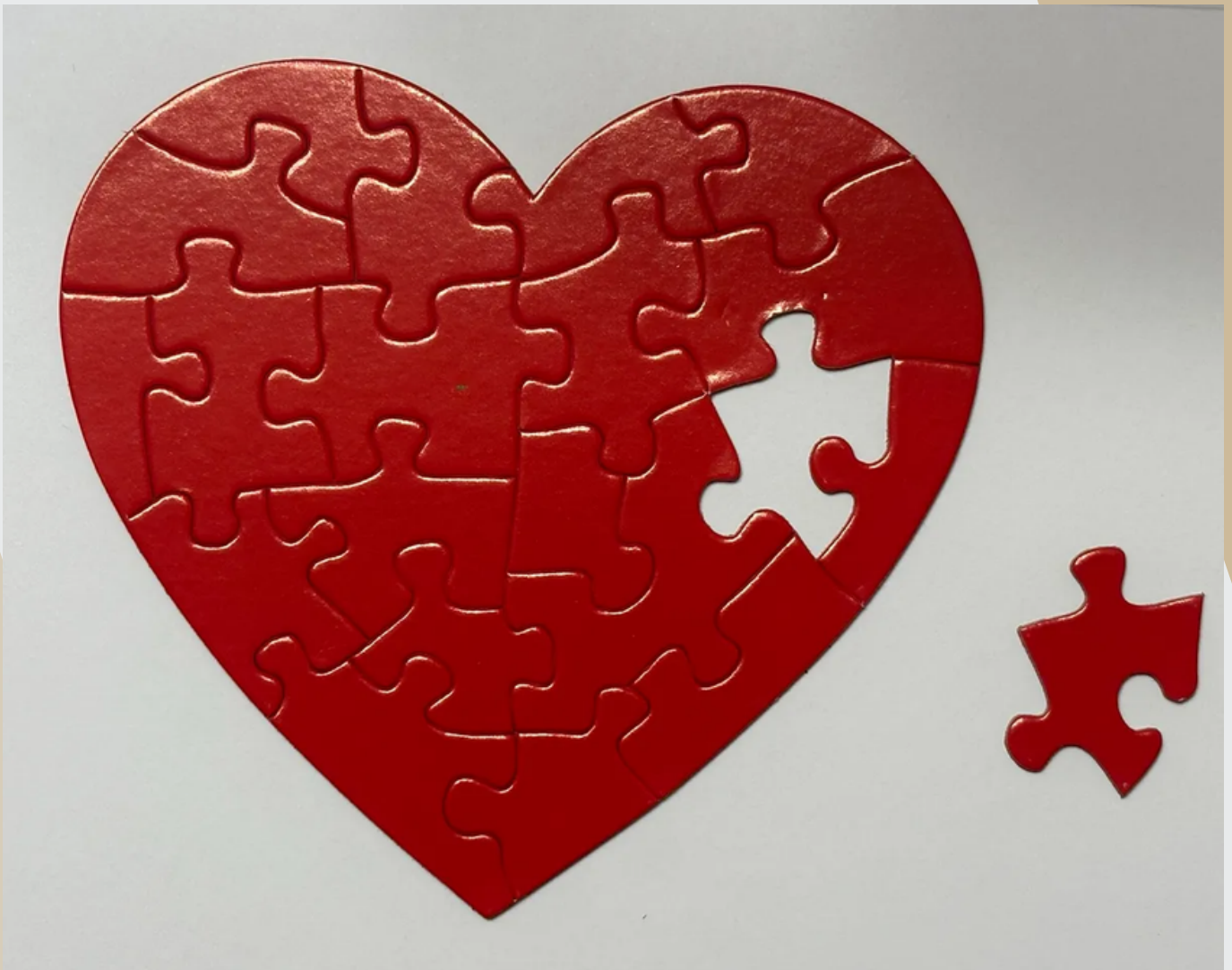
Inclusion is the practice of ensuring that all students, regardless of their differences, are actively involved in the learning environment. This means that all students are given equal though not necessarily the same, access to resources, opportunities, and experiences, and that barriers to participation, whether cognitive, physical, social, or emotional, are identified and catered for, in an individualised manner, according to the specific needs.

Objectives

- To create a welcoming and supportive school environment where every student feels safe and respected.



- To promote equal access to educational opportunities for all students, including those with disabilities, from diverse backgrounds, and with varying learning needs, background, ability, race, gender, religion, or any other characteristic
- To implement differentiated instruction and assessment strategies that meet the needs of all learners.”.
- To foster an environment where diversity is celebrated, and students learn to appreciate and respect differences.
- To encourage staff, parents, and the wider community to collaborate in supporting the inclusion of all students.



Guiding Principles

- **Respect for Diversity:**
 - We celebrate and embrace the diversity of our student body, recognizing that each individual has unique qualities and strengths that enrich the school community. We believe that learning in a diverse environment fosters empathy, understanding, respect and cooperation.
- **Equality of Opportunity:**
 - Every student, irrespective of their abilities, cultural background, socio-economic status, gender, ethnicity, religion, or any other characteristic, will have equal access to all school activities and academic programs.
- **Support and Empowerment:**
 - We commit, to the best of our ability and resources, to providing the necessary support to enable every student to achieve their full potential, including differentiated teaching strategies, tailored support services, and accessible resources.
- **Collaboration and Participation:**
 - Inclusion is a shared responsibility. We encourage collaboration among students, staff, families, and external professionals to ensure that every child is fully included in all aspects of school life. Students are encouraged to take an active role in their education and to participate in all school activities.

- Safe and supportive:
 - Our school aims to create an environment where all students feel safe, valued, and able to express themselves freely. Bullying, harassment, and discrimination, either during or outside of school hours, are not tolerated in any form, and the school will take swift action to address any concerns or incidents related to exclusion or unfair treatment.
- Ongoing Reflection and Improvement:
 - We regularly review and evaluate our practices with input from staff, students and parents, to ensure that they remain effective in promoting inclusion and that we continually strive for improvement
- Accountability:
 - We hold all individuals and groups responsible for creating and maintaining an inclusive environment.
 - We aim to set clear expectations for behaviour and ensure adherence to the principles of inclusion.
- Cultural Competence
 - We encourage cultural sensitivity and awareness, and we integrate inclusive practices that honour and respect all cultural identities and backgrounds.
 - Integrate inclusive practices that respect all cultures and identities.

Relevant Policies Consulted

National Policies (Malta)

1. A Policy on Inclusive Education in Schools: Route to Quality Inclusion (Revised 2022)

- Provides a guiding plan for schools to ensure all learners have access to quality education and feel a sense of belonging.
- Emphasizes a whole-school approach, collaboration, and individualized learning pathways

2. National Inclusive Education Framework (Revised 2022)

- Focuses on ten themes including inclusive leadership, teaching and learning, learner wellbeing, and support services.
- Promotes principles of ownership, diversity, autonomy, planning, and research

3. National Curriculum Framework for All (MEDE, 2012)

- Advocates for inclusive and equitable learning experiences for all students.



European Union Frameworks

1. Council Resolution on a Strategic Framework for European Cooperation in Education and Training (2021–2030)
2. Sets inclusion, equity, and success for all as a strategic priority.
3. Supports the development of the European Education Area

International Conventions

1. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
 - Affirms the right of every child to education without discrimination.
2. UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
 - Article 24 emphasizes the right to inclusive education at all levels for persons with disabilities
3. UN Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4)
 - Aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.”

Conclusion

We are committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable school environment where every student can thrive. This policy is an essential part of our efforts to create a school community that embraces diversity, promotes respect, and supports the success of all students.