



## HELP INCREASE THE PEACE POLICY 2012-2014

### Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP)

#### Context

North Ainslie Primary School is an ACT government school which works within the parameters of the ACTDET policy framework. It is situated in an inner northern suburb of Canberra. It is a culturally and linguistically diverse school, which provides education for approximately five hundred students. North Ainslie is particularly unique because it is home not only to a mainstream primary school but also to an introductory English centre for migrant and refugee children (IEC), and to a learning support unit for students with autism (LSU). The school also provides mainstream integration for a number of children with learning disabilities. Our school community is one which covers a broad socio-economic base.

The school has an embedded restorative practices culture which is supported by various programs such as circle time, enrichment and Help Increase the Peace.

#### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students in year three, and new students in years four to six, are given the opportunity to learn non-violent approaches to conflict resolution and social change.

The aim of the policy is to give students, particularly in the school environment, the opportunity to:

- build skills for solving conflict without violence
- analyse social injustice
- work towards taking action for positive, nonviolent personal and social change.

#### Rationale

The HIP program has made a positive impact in many schools across Australia and is an excellent way to continue the schools' proactive work on increasing safety and harmony in our school.

The program has been recognised by the National Safe Schools Council and the National Coalition against Bullying as a program that instils protective behaviours in children. It is also acknowledged that the program helps to create a better and more peaceful world.

#### Implementation Strategies

The HIP program uses participatory activities and discussions to help the students:

- Build community
- Develop interpersonal skills
- Analyse social forces
- Envision steps that would lead to a more just world.

HIPP combines serious, focussed reflection with energetic, fun activities, creating a balance that engages the students.

HIPP begins with the students' own experiences, and teaches skills in the context of real world situations.

HIPP builds community based on dialogue and encourages students to see each other as valuable resources for creating change.

HIPP supports students in becoming leaders and addressing problems in the school community.

HIPP is delivered by trained teachers and volunteer staff. The program is delivered over three days with a set agenda. It is offered to year 3 and recently enrolled year 4-6 students. Students must attend all 3 days of the program to graduate.

### **Resources**

Financial: staff training, staff release

*Help Increase the Peace Program Manual*

Red HIPP suitcase

### **References**

- **Help Increase The Peace Program Manual**, Second Addition, The American Friends Service Committee, Baltimore USA, 1999.
- Help Increase The Peace Sydney, **Supplementary materials for Training for Facilitators**
- Calwell Cluster Emotional Literacy through Circle Time Network **Resource Booklet** , 2008