

31 January 2022

Dear Friends

The vocation of Anglican Schools in Southern Queensland is "[education driven by a vision of humanity shaped by the image of God made visible in Jesus, present in every human being.](#)"

Central to Christian theology is the truth that every single one of us is made in the image of God. Every one of us is loved unconditionally by God and we must avoid, at all costs, diminishing the dignity of any individual to a stereotype or a problem. Our hope is that all of our Anglican schools will be communities where everyone is a person known and loved by God, supported to know their intrinsic value.

We acknowledge and celebrate variety within both our student and staff memberships. We invite and welcome all and hospitality is given to every student, no matter their race, gender, sexuality, ideology, ability/disability or religion. No one is excluded.

Recent media reports about the possibility of schools excluding students on the basis of their gender or sexuality have once again caused concern for a number of people within our school communities.

Within the Anglican Church there is a wide spectrum of understanding about human sexuality and gender, and within a school community there may also be diversity of opinion. For some, this is a sensitive topic. However, this does not negate the absolute necessity to create an inclusive school environment that enables all people to feel safe and to flourish.

Neither students nor staff in our schools will be discriminated against on the basis of their gender or sexuality. Our schools will remain safe places for all people "without exception, without exclusion", and we welcome amongst our students and staff people of diverse backgrounds, diverse faith perspectives and those who identify as LGBTI+.

The Anglican Church in its long history has come to value diversity as a positive good and our schools know the gifts that diversity brings to any community. The only pre-condition for membership in our schools (outside fees) is respect, respect for our ethos and the Gospel at its heart.

Peace and all good



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