

Religious intolerance

Information for parents, carers and students

Our commitment

The department recognises, values and respects the cultural, linguistic, religious and spiritual diversity of students, their families and the school community. We are committed to the elimination of all forms of discrimination in NSW public schools.

What is religious intolerance?

Religious intolerance is when someone is mean, unfair or treats others differently because of their religion, faith, belief, or spirituality.

How students can report religious intolerance

Students who experience religious intolerance should report it to a teacher or member of school staff. Students can also call or email their school using the contact details on their school website.

Sometimes religious intolerance has a racial element. Reports of racism can be made to any member of school staff or to the [Anti-Racism Contact Officer](#) at the school. For more information see the [Reports of racism](#) and the [Anti-racism policy](#) pages.

What support is available for students?

Experiencing or witnessing religious intolerance can have a negative impact on students. Information and services for students is available on the following websites:

- [Mental health support for students](#)
- [Student anti-bullying pages](#)

How parents, carers and community members can report religious intolerance

Parents, carers and community members can make a report of religious intolerance on behalf of themselves or on behalf of a student with their consent.

The report should be made to the school where the incident of religious intolerance occurred. Parents and carers can make a report in person, by email or phone using the contact details on the school website.

If you need an interpreter to assist you when contacting the school, call the Telephone interpreter service on 131 450 and tell the operator the language you need and the phone number you want to ring. You will not be charged for this service.

What support is available for parents?

Information and support for parents is available on the following websites:

- [Mental health and wellbeing support](#)
- [What support is available to parents?](#)

Further steps

For further support or if you believe the intolerance is system wide, access the Religious Intolerance Helpline by calling 1300 679 332 and letting the operator know the call is about religious intolerance. Use the Telephone interpreter service if required. The helpline can:

- provide information about related policies and procedures
- refer reports to relevant areas
- recommend appropriate support services
- find fair resolutions to reports.

To make a complaint

Students, parents or carers can make a complaint by following the steps at the translated [quick reference guide for making a complaint](#). Learn more about complaints on the translated [support persons and advocates](#) page.

Related department policies

- [Anti-racism policy](#)
- [Multicultural education policy](#)
- [Student behaviour policy](#)