

2016 ASG National Excellence in Teaching Awards

State and Territory Award Recipient

Dr Sonia Cheema

Al Siraat College
Epping, Victoria

Dr Sonia Cheema, Head of Wellbeing (Prep to 12), and a Senior Leadership Team member, is a quiet achiever and talented leader who believes intercultural and interfaith understanding begins at school level. At a school with 31 different nationalities, she works to build connections among students of different backgrounds, and is committed to engaging and empowering students by involving them in student leadership programs and co-curricular activities, and encouraging them to regulate their own learning.

Sonia works diligently to empower students to lead, and her leadership training for the Student Representative Council has transformed the school's wellbeing. She has also created an Interfaith Ambassadors program involving students in cross-cultural dialogue, and has instituted anti-bullying week celebrations twice a year.

Her efforts have also resulted in the establishment of a wellbeing centre at the college, where she leads student support teachers, counsellors, speech therapists and consultants to provide counseling and student support services, and parent education seminars.

Dr Cheema is also heavily involved in her local community and received a Community Service Award from the Victorian Premier in 2015.

| Position | Other responsibilities | Category | Subjects/level taught | Years teaching |
|----------|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Teacher | Head of Wellbeing | Secondary | | 17 |
| | School type | Nominated by | Town/suburb | State and postcode |
| 2.5 | Private | SRC Executive – School Captain | Epping | VIC, 3076 |

Contact details:

Teacher: Dr Sonia Cheema

Phone: 03 9408 1999

Principal/Director: Andrew Houghton

Email: scheema@alsiraat.vic.edu.au

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Registered Office 23-35 Hanover St Oakleigh Vic Australia 3166

For further information, please contact:

Nicole Gundi, Public Relations, Australian Scholarships Group
Phone: 03 9276 7520 Mobile: 0448 167 578 Fax: 03 9276 7798
Email: publicrelations@asg.com.au asg.com.au/neita

