

ACTION PLAN ABORIGINAL LEARNING, WELLBEING AND SAFETY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact the assistant principal.

Note: Throughout this document the term Koorie is used to refer to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Merri Creek PS embraces the vision of the [Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan](#) and celebrates the culture, knowledge and experiences of First Nations Peoples. We are committed to creating and maintaining a school environment that empowers Koorie students to feel valued, respected and culturally strong.

Our school has a number of measures in place to ensure our community acknowledges and appreciates the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. These measures are outlined below.

Family and Community Perspectives and Feedback:

We actively seek participation and feedback from Koorie students, families and Community by:

- acknowledging the existing knowledge of Koorie students and their families and seeking their feedback on decisions that affect them, and on how well we are meeting their needs, through Student Support Groups, during the development of Individual Education Plans and through working directly with families
- working with our regional Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESOs) for advice on how we can create a culturally inclusive learning environment and to build our capacity to provide support for individual Koorie students attending our school
- working with a Reconciliation Action Plan group Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parent/carer community members to establish and implement the school's Reconciliation Action Plan
- partnering with Wurunjeri people of the Woivurrung language group to seek feedback and advice on existing and new actions we can take to support the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal students and children in our community.

Training and Professional Development of Staff

To ensure our staff are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to create and maintain a positive and inclusive school environment we:

- ensure staff participate in [Community Understanding and Safety Training \(CUST\)](#) training
- provide tailored training and professional development each year to build knowledge for specific staff based on any emerging or current areas of need
- ensure training and professional development equips teaching staff to deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives within the classroom curriculum
- ensure training and professional development equips staff with an understanding and appreciation of the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and its importance to the wellbeing and safety of Koorie children and students.
- In 2022 we have dedicated a curriculum day to looking at how Inquiry studies at all year levels (F-6) could incorporate Indigenous studies focused on the environment and Indigenous knowledge of Country and sustainability.

Curriculum and Learning

Merri Creek PS supports the development of high expectations and individualised learning for Koorie students and creates a learning environment for all students that acknowledges, respects and values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and identities. This includes:

- implementing the Department of Education and Training's [Koorie Education Policy](#)
- ensuring that all Koorie students have individual education plans developed in partnership with students, families, and KESOs.

Assemblies and Other School Events and Activities

We ensure our school events and activities acknowledge and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture by:

- acknowledging the Country and Traditional Owners of the land on which our school is located the Wurundjeri Woirung at the start of every school assembly
- arranging Welcome to Country by local Elders at the start of every school year
- arranging incursions and excursions, and recognising key events and anniversaries that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, for example NAIDOC week and Sorry Day.

Built and Digital Environment

We ensure our built environment and website demonstrates an appreciation and acknowledgment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture through:

- flying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags on school grounds on key dates.
- displaying a plaque outside our main entrance that Acknowledge Country and Traditional Owners
- including an Acknowledgement of Country and Traditional Owners on the footer of every school newsletter.

Review and Feedback:

We recognise that our school's practices must be regularly reviewed and updated in partnership with our families and local communities. We encourage you to contact Kerri Gibson, Principal, with any feedback, concerns or suggestions.