

Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety Action Plan



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the office on 9885 2421.

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

PURPOSE

Solway Primary 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 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

Where possible 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 initial enrolment meetings, Student Support Groups, during the development of Individual Education Plans
- 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

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:

- have a staff member nominated as our Marrung Lead
- ensure staff participate in Community Understanding and Safety Training (CUST) training
- provide support to teaching staff to deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives within the classroom curriculum
- support teachers to work in their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to map and develop teaching and learning activities within the Victorian Curriculum priorities to enable staff to build their confidence with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content and to recognise opportunities to draw upon Aboriginal pedagogies and practices within their classrooms
- 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.

- Learn more about Aboriginal histories and cultures, both locally and across Australia. Speak with respect and confidence about Aboriginal culture, knowledge systems and people
- Develop and implement an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation Action Plan.

Curriculum and learning

Solway Primary School 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
- Making Aboriginal voice a part of decision making in matters that affect Aboriginal students and being open to different ways of doing and expressing things.
- Building schoolwide knowledge of Aboriginal histories, cultures, perspectives, values, skills and attitudes, for example by engaging students in learning and activities related to Naidoc Week each year

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 people in the Kulin Nation, at the start of every school assembly and meeting
- arranging Welcome to Country by local Elders at major school events such as the opening of new buildings or campuses
- arranging incursions and excursions, and recognising key events and anniversaries that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture
- visiting an Aboriginal cultural learning centre, such as:
 - Koorie Heritage Trust (Melbourne)
 - Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre (Melbourne)
 - Narana Aboriginal Cultural Centre (Geelong)
- Recognising key events and anniversaries, such as:
 - 2008 National Apology to the Stolen Generations - 13 February
 - Harmony Day - 21 March
 - Sorry Day - 26 May
 - Reconciliation Week - 27 May to 3 June
 - Mabo Day - 3 June
 - NAIDOC week - First week of July
 - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day - 4 August
 - International Day of Indigenous People - 9 August
 - Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - 13 September

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.

- displaying plaques/signs outside our main entrance that Acknowledge Country and Traditional Owners
- including an Acknowledgement of Country and Traditional Owners on our website home page
- Celebrating the local Aboriginal community in communications with students, staff, volunteers and families, sharing information through school newsletters, school assemblies, and parent information nights
- Develop a resource bank of digital, hardcopy print and other artefacts that support the inclusion of Aboriginal content across the curriculum.

RESOURCES:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/schools-culturally-safe-environments-guidance#examples-of-actions-to-support-cultural-safety>

[Building Quality Standards Handbook](#)

[Flag flying and patriotic ceremonies: policy](#)

[Koorie Education Policy](#)

[Koorie teaching resources](#)

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 the school Principal with any feedback, concerns or suggestions.