

# ACTION PLAN ABORIGINAL LEARNING, WELLBEING AND SAFETY



## Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Administration 03 94283286.

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

Yarra Primary School 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.

To comply with this standard Yarra Primary School must encourage and actively support a child or student's ability to express their culture and enjoy their cultural rights in the following ways:

- equip staff, students, volunteers and the school community to acknowledge and appreciate the strengths of Aboriginal culture and understand its importance to the wellbeing and safety of Aboriginal children and students.
- adopt measures to ensure racism is identified, confronted and not tolerated
- address any instances of racism within the school environment with appropriate consequences
- actively support participation and inclusion in the school by Aboriginal children, students and their families
- develop and endorse a policy or statement detailing the strategies and actions the school will take
- all Koorie students will have an IEP ( Individual Education Plan) and termly Student Support Group meetings

## 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 initial enrolment meeting, Student Support Groups, during the development of Individual Education Plans

- working with our regional Koorie Engagement Support Officer (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
- partnering with Wurundjeri community 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 all 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
- 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 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

### **Curriculum and learning**

Yarra 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

### **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 at the start of every school assembly and meeting,

*Yarra Primary School would like to acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation on the land which we are meeting. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, extending that respect to all First Nation Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are in our presence today. Being on the banks of Birrarung (Yarra River) we pledge to protect the land created by Bunjil the eagle, the creator spirit. AS we walk each day under the beautiful Wurun gums, we thank First Nations people for allowing us to learn*

*on unseeded land and acknowledge their deep connection to country. Australia was and always will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land.*

- **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**
- **Recognition of National Reconciliation week through class activities**

### **Built and digital environment**

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

- 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.

### **Community 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 Principal with any feedback, concerns or suggestions.

### **REVIEW CYCLE**

Policy last reviewed	September 2023
Consultation	School Council: Date October 2023 School Website: Date September 2023
Approved by	Principal : Saraid Doherty
Next scheduled review date	September 2025 – Mandatory review cycle for this policy 2 years.