



Cardinia Primary School Action Plan Aboriginal Students' Learning, Wellbeing and Safety

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

Cardinia 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.

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 meetings, Student Support Groups, during the development of Individual Education Plans and morning tea each Term, arranged by the Wellbeing Coordinator
- 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
- 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.
- connecting families with local community services, programs and organisations. DDACL, VACCA, Casey Aboriginal Gathering Place and Cardinia Shire.

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:

- all staff participate in [Community Understanding and Safety Training \(CUST\)](#) training so that staff have 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.
- appointed a Wellbeing Coordinator, Emma Parker, to lead the actions in this plan. In addition to the CUST training all staff complete, she has completed the LOOKOUT Designated Teacher training
- Teachers attend the Cardinia Network Marrung Community of Practice that focuses on embedding Aboriginal content into the curriculum and sharing of best practice from schools within the network
- 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 build their confidence with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content and to recognise opportunities to draw upon Aboriginal pedagogies and practices within their classrooms

Curriculum and learning

Cardinia 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](#)
- providing extra opportunities for families to transition from kinder - Foundation and Year 6 – Year 7 to build a sense of belonging for students and families in a new environment. This will provide opportunities to build relationships with students and families.
- appointing a Year 6 Koorie student as our Koorie Student Leader.
- School Captains and Koorie Leader attend all Network Indigenous Leadership days.
- ensuring that all Koorie students have individual education plans developed in partnership with students, families, and KESOs.
- whole school incursions each year on different aspects of inclusion such as anti-racism, cultural celebrations and others, arranged in alignment with Respectful Relationships delivery
- using the Respectful Relationships program's tolerance and acceptance topics, along with the Resilience Project's treatment of racism in bullying, to foster a general culture of inclusion
- including learning about Aboriginal history and culture for all students at the school
- connecting students to their culture and providing opportunities to build their cultural identity

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 Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation) at the start of every school assembly and meeting
- Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week activities each year, both for the whole school and individual classes. This includes presentations by the school captains.
- arranging incursions and excursions, and recognising key events and anniversaries that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture

Built and digital environment

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

- an artwork produced by (local Koorie community members in consultation with teachers and students) to acknowledge local history and our school community and will permanently displayed
- a quilt made by one of our Koorie grandparents and permanently displayed in our main building
- flying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags on school grounds and at assemblies.

- displaying a plaque outside our main entrance that Acknowledges Country and Traditional Owners
- including an Acknowledgement of Country and Traditional Owners on our website home page

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 Principal or Assistant Principal with any feedback, concerns or suggestions

Consultation	Peter Dye - June 2025
Approved by	Principal – Susan Wepster
Next scheduled review date	June 2028