

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 Mill Park Heights Primary School on 03 9436 8866 or mill.park.heights.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

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

Mill Park Heights 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.

- Children feel comfortable in being themselves and are offered a specific Indigenous cultural group to celebrate and explore their culture
- Children feel comfortable expressing their culture, including their spiritual and belief systems via their on and offsite discovery sessions
- Children are supported by carers who respect their Aboriginality and encourage their sense of identity. This includes access to local indigenous groups, our KESO and Indigenous school coordinators
- Our Indigenous children work together collectively to set group and person goals as part of their SSG process
- As a school, we respect culture, work to eliminate racism and abuse and take action by:
 - equipping 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
 - adopting measures to ensure racism is identified, confronted and not tolerated
 - addressing any instances of racism within the school environment with appropriate consequences
 - actively supporting participation and inclusion in the school by Aboriginal children, students and their families
 - ensuring school policies, procedures, systems and processes together create a culturally safe and inclusive environment and meet the needs of Aboriginal children, students and their families
 - developing and endorse a policy or statement detailing the strategies and actions the school will take.

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
- 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:

- 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
- 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.

CURRICULUM AND LEARNING

Mill Park Heights 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’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 on plaques at the entrance doors of every building, in our Administration office and is verbally acknowledged at the start of every school assembly and meeting
- arranging Welcome to Country by local Elders at major school events if available
- 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:

- 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 our school email address with any feedback, concerns or suggestions.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 11th, 2023
Consultation	Child Safe Officer, SIT, Principal Team, School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	September 2025