

Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety Policy

PURPOSE

Background Mount Martha Primary School embraces the vision of the [Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan 2016-2026](#) 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.

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

PURPOSE

To ensure:

- That Mount Martha Primary School community acknowledges and appreciates the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.
- That the school has a focus on educating its students with Aboriginal perspectives.
- The school is compliant with the Child Safe Standards and DET policies related to First Nations People.
- The policy maintains the DET values of leadership, impartiality, integrity, human rights, accountability, respect and responsiveness.

IMPLEMENTATION

The principal has the overall responsibility of implementing this action plan and will delegate certain roles and responsibilities to staff to action.

CURRICULUM AND LEARNING

Mount Martha 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:

- Development of a Marrung Action Plan which outlines the yearly actions in teaching and learning and is reviewed each year.
- 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.

- create a learning environment for all students that acknowledges, respects and values Koorie cultures and identities.

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/Boon Wurrung of the Kulin Nation at the start of every school assembly and meeting.
- Ensuring each inquiry unit has Aboriginal perspectives and is documented.
- Arranging incursions and excursions based on Aboriginal culture.
- Recognising key events and anniversaries that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture at assembly and in the school newsletter.

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 entrances that Acknowledge Country and Traditional Owners that the school is built on.
- Including an Acknowledgement of Country and Traditional Owners on our website home page.

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.
- 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 and knowledge 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.

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES AND FEEDBACK

We 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 and 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.

COMMUNICATION

This Policy will be communicated in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school website
- Included in staff induction processes.
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required.
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions.
- Referenced at least annually in the school newsletter.
- Discussed at student forums.
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

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. This action plan will be reviewed every two years and School Council consultation will also be sought if any significant changes are made.

Policy last reviewed	October 2023
Consultation (Recommended)	Staff /School Council October 2023
Approved by	Principal Karen Walker
Next scheduled review date	October 2025