

SOUTH YARRA PRIMARY SCHOOL 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 the school office on 03 9866 3424.

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

South 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.

SYPS Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

- Child safe presentation - school council
- Child safe presentation - staff
- Child safe requirements for staff
- CRT booklet
- Controls to address racism, discrimination and bullying are outlined in the Bullying Prevention Policy and the Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy.
- All staff completed the CUST in 2020
- SYPS displays the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in the school foyer.
- Acknowledgement of Country and National Apology are clearly displayed in the Main Office
- Regular posts on Compass highlighting cultural festivals, local seasons and significant events
- SYPS Volunteers Policy
- Curriculum Planning considers Aboriginal culture across all year levels
- SYPS continues to ensure that resources, eg library books and other resources, reflect the local Aboriginal people

- Significant events, such as Sorry Day, Reconciliation Week and National Apology Day are acknowledged by the whole school at assemblies and in classes
- Aboriginal families are given the option to choose whether they would like to stand for the National Anthem during assembly. If they choose not to, they are supported by other students who sit with them to show support.
- Staff are encouraged to engage in professional learning to deepen their understanding of Aboriginal culture
- The school is building a relationship with local Aboriginal groups
- SYPS Grounds Masterplan considers the original environment that was in our area before colonisation
- Student leaders are leading projects to create a safe environment such as, new flag poles so that all flags may be flown at the same height, new flag poles for the front of school to ensure all Aboriginal families feel welcome

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, termly student surveys, **ADD**
- 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
- giving students opportunities through incursions and excursions 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 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 Year Level Teams 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

South 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](#)

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 Traditional Owners of the land on which we are meeting. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and the Aboriginal Elders of other communities who may be present.
- 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:

- displaying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in the school foyer.
- 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

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 Office with any feedback, concerns or suggestions