



WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE

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ABORIGINAL LEARNING, WELLBEING & SAFETY ACTION PLAN

Date	October 2023	Review Cycle	2 Years	Approved By	Principal (community consultation)
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INTERPRETER SERVICE

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact our college on 9741 1822 or werribee.sc@education.vic.gov.au so interpreters may be arranged via VITS or local services.



Please note: Throughout this document the term Koorie and First Nations is used to refer to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

PURPOSE

Werribee Secondary College 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 cultures. These measures are outlined below.

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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 enrolment meetings, Student Support Groups and in development of Individual Education Plans;
- working with our regional Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESOs) and VACCA mentors 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;
- employing a Marrung Champion to work with students and families to ensure their voices are heard;
- linking with local Koorie community groups to engage with students and deliver programs.

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:

- provide professional development each year to build knowledge for specific staff based on any emerging or current areas of need;
- support teachers to work in their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to map and develop teaching and learning activities within the Victorian Curriculum 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

Werribee Secondary College 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 appropriate curriculum and teaching resources are provided to support teachers in effective implementation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures in the classroom;
- 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 Bunurong Country and Traditional Owners of the land on which our school is located at the start of every school assembly and meeting.
- arranging Welcome to Country ceremonies by local Elders at major school events such as building openings.
- 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 signage that Acknowledges Country and Traditional Owners.
- including an Acknowledgement of Country and Traditional Owners on our college website.

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.