

# Montrose Primary School Action Plan: Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing & Safety

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

Montrose 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, semester-based Student Support Groups, during the development of Individual Education Plans and encouraging student voice and agency through opportunity to share culture and knowledge
- 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
- partnering with Wurundjeri community Elders to 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.

## 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 incorporate 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.
- support and encourage staff to connect with local Wurundjeri Elders and community groups to seek advice, knowledge, and support in incorporating Aboriginal perspectives within the curriculum.

## Curriculum and learning

Montrose 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](#)
- 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 Wurundjeri People of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land on which our school is located at the start of every school assembly and meeting
- arranging Welcome to Country by local Wurundjeri Elders at major school events such as the opening of new buildings or campuses
- arranging incursions and excursions, and recognising key events and anniversaries that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture
- encouraging educators to incorporate an Acknowledgement of Country at the start of every school day
- Marrung Lead providing support to educators in creating a culturally appropriate Acknowledgement of Country.

## 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

- displaying plaques/signs outside classrooms 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 Montrose Primary School with any feedback, concerns or suggestions.

## Review and approval

<b>Plan last reviewed</b>	<b>Term 2, 2022</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	Consultation on this plan with school ATSI Coordinator on 17/6/22
<b>Approved by</b>	Principal
<b>Next scheduled review date</b>	Term 2, 2024 or following a relevant child safety incident.