



Action Plan

Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand this policy, please contact the school on (03) 9803 8311 or email burwood.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.

Purpose

Burwood Heights Primary School and Kindergarten 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.

At Burwood Heights Primary School and Kindergarten, we support the inclusion and cultural safety of Aboriginal people by:

- encouraging and actively supporting students to express and appreciate their culture.
- explicitly teaching Aboriginal culture through the curriculum and providing staff, students, volunteers and the wider school community with the knowledge needed to understand its significance in the lives of Aboriginal children and students.
- having zero tolerance for racism and having measures in place to identify and confront racism across all school settings.
- actively supporting the participation and inclusion of Aboriginal children and their families within the school.
- developing an action plan and risk register that includes procedures to create a culturally safe and inclusive environment for Aboriginal children and their families that links to school Child Safety policy documents.
- having a Wellbeing Coordinator who mentors Koorie students within the school and liaises with their teachers to ensure they feel connected to the school community.
- having a trained LOOKOUT representative who supports any Koorie students in out of home care by ensuring the Education Plan is completed, adjusted when necessary, and reflected upon by all support team members when attending Student Support Group (SSG) meetings.
- creating a highly inclusive learning environment in which the cultures of all children and students are celebrated, shared, and respected.

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, Individual Learning Plans and through guided inquiry learning experiences.
- 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 people 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 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

Burwood Heights Primary School and Kindergarten 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.
- Exploring Aboriginal culture and history, both local and across Australia in depth, through classroom and specialist learning that explores the six transdisciplinary themes: who we are, how the world works, how we express ourselves, where we are in place and time, sharing the planet and how we organise ourselves.

Assemblies and other School Events and Activities

We ensure our school events and activities acknowledge and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture by:

- beginning events and meetings with a Welcome to Country or an Acknowledgment of Country and ensuring students understand its significance in respecting and appreciating Aboriginal culture.
- supporting all Aboriginal children, students and their families to have a voice within our community and to develop the skills they need to have self-determination and feel empowered to make choices and feel nurtured and appreciated within the Victorian education system.
- sharing student learning, appreciation, and respect for Koori culture through information evenings, newsletters, assemblies and ongoing student work.
- engaging with local Aboriginal community members and organising incursions and excursions that provide students with authentic opportunities to connect with, listen to and learn about Aboriginal culture, stories and history.
- understanding and celebrating significant annual events within Koori culture such as: Harmony Day, Reconciliation Week, Mabo Day and NAIDOC week.

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 flag alongside the Australian Flag in front of the school on particular days/weeks and displaying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag at all school assemblies.
- displaying plaques and signs to Acknowledge Country and that our school was built on Kulin Nation Land.

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 on (03) 9803 8311 or email burwood.heights.ps@education.vic.gov.au