

St John's Primary School

Promulgated: 1994
Reviewed: 2017
To Be Reviewed: 2021

Aboriginal Education Policy



*St John's Primary School, as part of the Catholic faith community,
strives to provide a caring, compassionate and supportive environment,
where each person is valued and encouraged
to develop to his/her full potential.*



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION POLICY

Rationale

St John's Primary School acknowledges that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of Australia and embraces the richness and diversity which exists within the Aboriginal nations of Australia. Catholic education, and therefore our school, is committed to maximising the learning opportunities for Aboriginal people.

St John's Primary School community recognises that there is a responsibility to create an understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal people, their histories, cultures and spirituality. Our school will play an important role in the formation of our students to develop as active and contributing members of Australian society. *'Catholic schools can serve as models for all within Western Australia who seek to create genuine communities. Such communities are always founded upon shared commitment to the common good'* (Mandate paragraph 6).¹

Definitions

1. The term *Aboriginal* refers to the original inhabitants of Australia and respectfully includes Torres Strait Islander people.
2. The term *parents* is not limited to the Western nuclear family definition, but rather reflects complex and dynamic Aboriginal kinship systems regulated by social bonds, physical and emotional relationship to country, and connections to ancestral spirits.
3. The term *histories and cultures* is inclusive of the unique values, languages and spirituality of Aboriginal peoples.
4. The term *Aboriginal Education* refers to the deep knowledge that can be learned from Aboriginal histories and cultures. Aboriginal Education applies to all areas within the school including: teaching and learning, employment, career pathways and community partnerships.
5. The term *Aboriginal Education Plan* refers to a formalised, whole-school plan to address all facets of Aboriginal Education.
6. The term *Aboriginal Nation* refers to Aboriginal society as one that is diverse, complex and sophisticated. Australia is made up of many Aboriginal Nations.

Scope

The rationale, principles and procedures of this policy applies across all aspects of St John's community life and marries well with the St John's Pastoral Care Policy and the St John's Evangelisation Plan.

Principles

1. Aboriginal people have rich histories and cultures that may be shared with all Australians.
2. St John's school is committed to increasing knowledge and understanding of the histories, cultures, and experiences of Aboriginal peoples.
3. St John's school recognises that parents are the first educators of their children.
4. St John's school is committed to collaborative decision making and capacity building with Aboriginal people.
5. Aboriginal students at St John's have the right to an equitable education that both enables the achievement of educational outcomes and maintains their cultural identity.
6. St John's school is committed to reconciliation which promotes the principles of truth, justice, equity and inclusivity.
7. St John's school is committed to increasing employment and promotional opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Procedures

1. St John's school in consultation with parents, families and school communities shall develop an Aboriginal Education Plan which is consistent with guidelines provided by national and state agreements.
2. St John's shall integrate Aboriginal Education across all areas of curriculum through the cross-curriculum priority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, as mandated by the Western Australian Curriculum. This cross-curriculum priority provides the opportunity for all Catholic schools to act as exemplars and work in collaboration with Aboriginal people to develop all students as active and contributing members of Australian society.
3. St John's staff shall attend ongoing professional learning in Aboriginal Education. Members of the local Aboriginal community shall be invited to be involved in the delivery of this professional learning where possible, in consultation with the Aboriginal Education Team.
4. St John's School cultural education and Aboriginal language programs shall be developed in collaboration with the Aboriginal community and in consultation with the Aboriginal Education Team.
5. St John's shall actively encourage and support Aboriginal people to be represented appropriately on school decision making committees.
6. St John's shall actively encourage and support Aboriginal people to undertake training and further education
7. St John's school shall encourage the employment and promotion of eligible, qualified Aboriginal people to leadership roles.
8. St John's school shall be fully involved in a process of reconciliation through the recognition, acceptance and celebration of Aboriginal cultural traditions and values.

References

Bishops Mandate for the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia 2009 – 2015
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy, 2015
University of New South Wales, Indigenous Terminology 2016
<https://teaching.unsw.edu.au/indigenous-terminology>
The State of Reconciliation in Australia, 2016
Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)
School Curriculum and Standards Authority, Government of Western Australia, 2014

St John's Aboriginal Education School Plan

2014-2017

The Church of Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until.....(the Aboriginal people of Australia) have made their contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others.
Pope John Paul II 1986.

...real need to reconcile with Aboriginal people. Reconciliation is a very important process that recognises cultural traditions and values. It promotes the principals of inclusion, equity and justice. Therefore, as members of the community, *the Aboriginal people have the right to expect all followers of Jesus Christ as witnesses to the truth of the Gospel to support them in their legitimate efforts towards development as a people seeking equality of dignity and opportunity in Australia.* *Pope John Paul II 1986.*

St John's Primary School will work towards incorporating the following aspects into our curriculum and school event planning:

ACTION	WHO	WHERE & WHEN	HOW
<p>Aboriginal Studies to be incorporated into classroom learning activities and outcomes.</p> <p>2015 - Yirra Yaakin Incursion 2017 – School Garden</p>	<p>Teachers</p> <p>Students Yrs 1-6</p>	<p>On an annual basis as part of curriculum planning.</p> <p>Hall</p>	<p>Use of the wide range of resources, available from Library. Through Art, R.E., T&E, SOSE, Library and Music. Invitations to Aboriginal guest speakers to share their culture and history at St John's.</p> <p>Aboriginal Cultural drama group Incursion for students</p> <p>Aboriginal Studies Day. Banner work with Donna Rioli. Story telling with Robyn Collard</p>
ACTION	WHO	WHERE & WHEN	HOW
<p>Include Aboriginal Studies across the curriculum on an ongoing basis</p>	<p>Teachers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Staff to access the wide range of Aboriginal resources available in Teachers Resource room. Australian Curriculum links to History , Geography and other learning areas. Guest speakers</p>
<p>Develop a Reconciliation Action Plan.</p> <p>2015 - Display Framed copy of Apology to Aboriginal People with acknowledgement of Country display 2015 - Year 5 assembly Sorry Day 2016 – Harmony Day/ National Sorry Day Assemblies Years 3,5 2017 – Harmony Day - Italian Activity National Sorry Day Assembly NAIDOC Week Assembly</p>	<p>School Community. Kate Oriti CEO</p>	<p>2014 onwards</p>	<p>2014 Develop a plan related to where the school is at in regard to Reconciliation understandings and beliefs. Celebrate Reconciliation Week. Display Framed copy of Apology to Aboriginal People with acknowledgement of Country display</p>

Modelling to children what we as a staff believes, i.e., diligently attending to preparation of children for upcoming Aboriginal studies, liturgies and events. 2015 - Year 5 assembly Sorry Day 2015 – NAIDOC week 2017 – Proposed NAIDOC Week Mass	Teachers	Ongoing in a 2 year cycle. YrA	Placing <i>Sorry Day</i> Paraliturgy on school RE calendar. Classes take turns to develop a paraliturgy. Organise whole school activities to acknowledge <i>Sorry Day</i> . School leadership team attend and support <i>Sorry Day</i> events. Parents/school community invited to events.
Recognising NAIDOC Week, Harmony Day and developing programmes that support this endeavour. 2015 – NAIDOC WEEK – Book swap 2016 – Aboriginal Literacy Fund Book Swap held by Year 6 students. Guest speakers from West Coast Eagles St John’s is represented by staff and students at the annual CEO NAIDOC Liturgy at the cathedral 2017 Book Swap Adele Year 2	Teaching Staff	Ongoing in a 2 year cycle YrB	Staff prepare a range of class or whole school activities to assist student understandings of NAIDOC Week, Harmony Day. St John’s is represented by staff and students at the annual CEO NAIDOC Liturgy at the cathedral.
ACTION	WHO	WHERE & WHEN	HOW
Identifying and acknowledging Aboriginal Culture by developing the possibility of a tiled pathway leading to the school hall where an acknowledgement of Country is prominently displayed. (Noongyar). 2016/7 – Displayed tile acknowledging Aboriginal walking this area. 2017 – Welcome school garden	Staff, students and community members	2014 Above alcove in school hall	Students create an artistic tile design representing aspects of Noongyar culture to be used in a pathway. Place a framed Apology To Aboriginal People by Aust Gov in hall as part of acknowledgement of Country display. (from library)
Support initiatives developed by the Council for aboriginal Reconciliation. 2015/6/7 - Sorry Day Harmony Day or Aboriginal Reconciliation.	Staff Students Parents Kate Oriti CEO	Annually	Sorry Day Harmony Day Reconciliation Week NAIDOC Week
Fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag alongside the Australian flag on the school premises. 2016/7 Flag pole to be erected alongside existing flag pole. Aboriginal flag flown every other day in conjunction with WA flag and school flag, 2017 PALS submission School Garden	Year 6 students	On special occasions	Flag pole to be erected alongside existing flag pole. (Achieved, August 2016)
Work towards ensuring that all members of the Catholic Community of Scarborough shall be provided with the opportunities to have knowledge and appreciation of the identity (including the history, culture and spirituality) and the contexts in which Aboriginal people live. Through exposure to information on school events associated with events such as NAIDOC Week etc. St John’s Web Page	Students, staff, parent body, parish.	Ongoing	Through exposure to information on school events associated with events such as NAIDOC Week etc. - St John’s Web Page - St John’s Newsletter

<p>St John's Newsletter</p> <p>The use of "Welcome to Country" address at the commencement of school celebrations...</p> <p>Welcome to Country by Robyn Collard as part of the Aboriginal Studies Day</p> <p>Reading stories from current affairs of current events concerning Aboriginal people.</p>			
ACTION	WHO	WHERE & WHEN	HOW
<p>Ensure that consideration is given to social justice needs of Aboriginal people when developing St John's Evangelisation projects.</p> <p>St John's class projects, i.e. Aboriginal speaker booked – NAIDOC Week</p>	<p>Staff(Greg)</p> <p>Students</p>	<p>On going</p>	<p>St John's class projects, i.e. Aboriginal speaker booked</p> <p>Indigenous Literacy Day –St John's in conjunction with WANSLEA to organise a book swap.</p>
<p>Ensuring that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait students and their families are welcomed in the school community where and when applicable.</p>	<p>Community</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Being mindful of Aboriginal traditions and culture when entertaining Aboriginal people in the school.</p> <p>Cover this area during staff professional development.</p>
<p>Professional Development to 'upskill' staff knowledge in relation to Noongar and other Aboriginal culture and history.</p> <p>2015 CONSULTATION VISIT and PLC Term 1, and T2 Week 8 – CEWA Aboriginal Education Consultant, Christine Pittman</p> <p>2016 Greg Goldie attended an Aboriginal PD at Prendiville College, Ocean Reef.</p> <p>2017 Gregory Goldie & Adele Hall Attending Geckos PD for Exemplary Educators</p>	<p>Staff</p>	<p>2014</p>	<p>Professional Development session: A request to CEO for a presenter for this PD.</p> <p>2015 - Christine Pittman CEWA met with Greg Goldie in Term 1 to review St John's 'Plan' and provide support for Aboriginal Education integration. Christine to speak with staff regarding Aboriginal culture...</p>