



# Indigenous Education Policy

## Aboriginal Perspectives across the Curriculum

Policy Code: CI- IEP  
To be Reviewed: 2018  
Ratified: 2015

### **Identity Statement**

To provide a school community that draws on the traditions of the Brigidine Order, that celebrates life, reaches out to others and actively cares for our world.

### **Vision Statements**

*St Patrick's Primary School strives to:*

- Guide and support students on their faith journey through experiences of the Catholic tradition, building a strong sense of belonging, responsibility and wonder within our school, church and global communities.
- Develop an environment that builds on student resilience, self - respect, confidence and empathy – in partnership with families.
- Foster a learning environment that provides a holistic education that nurtures all learners in order for them to realise their full potential.
- Model and foster a safe and supportive environment for students and their families within the school community.
- Provide learning and teaching experiences that promote decision making.
- Conserve God's creation and recognise the traditional owners of the land.

### **Graduate Outcomes**

*We endeavour to create graduates who will:*

- Have a dynamic faith
- Be committed to social justice
- Be environmentally aware
- Develop and sustain loving relationships
- Be life-long learners
- Realise their potential
- Be creative problem-solvers
- Be resilient, confident and independent
- Be respectful
- Have courage and integrity
- Be self-aware
- Enjoy their experiences

### **Rationale**

The Indigenous Education must form an integral part of every student's education. This will lead to an understanding and appreciation by all students of the contemporary cultural heritage and lifestyle of indigenous people, as well as the history and traditional aspects of indigenous life.

In 1986, Pope John Paul II, reminded us that the Church stands in solidarity with the Indigenous people.

*"Even in the 90's the emphasis through liturgy and the involvement of Indigenous peoples whilst he was here to beatify Mary MacKillop, emphasized his strongly held belief that the Church in Australia will only be truly Australian when it has included all peoples, especially the first Australians."*

### **Basic Beliefs**

We will focus on the three core elements of Reconciliation according to an Indigenous perspective: Spirituality, Cultural Recognition and Awareness, and Practical Reconciliation and Justice (which will be evident in our school's covenant). This will form a natural part of our curriculum within the school.



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### AIMS & GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

Aims	Teaching and Learning Strategies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An indigenous perspective should become a natural part of all curriculum areas wherever possible.</li> <li>• Every child at our school has the right to know the basic features of Australian history in order to develop his/ her cultural identity.</li> <li>• Our school will ensure that historic information presented to students is authentic and includes an indigenous perspective on the country being studied.</li> <li>• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's perspectives should focus on the local community and on indigenous communities of other parts of Victoria, Australia and other countries.</li> <li>• Pangarang of the Yorta Yorta Nation people will be invited to participate in the school community and we will recognize their right to have input into curriculum development.</li> <li>• The resources used to develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's perspective will support the present day realities and issues as well as the historical perspectives.</li> <li>• Set a budget to cover the cost of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's resources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of the local indigenous community will be invited to speak to and work with students and teachers at our school</li> <li>• Indigenous performers will be invited to share their cultural heritage with our students.</li> <li>• Elected Fire Carriers (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education) will be ceremonially initiated to represent students on the school's journey to Reconciliation and educate the school community about the local Aboriginal story.</li> <li>• We will display a Message stick and other artefacts in a prominent position in our school.</li> <li>• Important Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's dates will be celebrated and recognized each year including NAIDOC week and Reconciliation week.</li> <li>• Maintain contact with CEO personal who can assist with developing relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's Perspectives.</li> <li>• Acknowledgement of Country will become an integral part of major gatherings, assemblies and routines.</li> <li>• We will erect the Aboriginal flag daily.</li> </ul>

#### Resources

- CEO Indigenous Perspectives Network
- NAIDOC Week website
- CEO Personnel
- AusVELS
- Open the Doors Foundation
- [www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw](http://www.reconciliation.org.au/nrw)

**Principal's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Board Chair Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_