



## 2022 FIRE Carriers Covenant

We recognise the special place and culture of Aboriginal peoples within Australia. We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples have been the caretakers of this Land for more than 60,000 years. We respect their spiritual connection to Mother Earth through the Dreaming.

'An apology begins the healing process. Apology means understanding, a willingness to enter into the suffering. It implies a commitment to do more'. The late Sir Ronald Wilson, Chair of the National Inquiry into the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. We understand that practical measures need to address the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal people in education, health, employment, and general opportunity.

"Reconciliation is an active pursuit – it's about getting on with what's needed and what we know to get the results we all want, and that's a mixture of measures that target the body, the mind and the spirit." *Mick Dodson, Australian of the Year, National Press Club address, 17 February 2009*

True Reconciliation requires national and local solutions achieved through positive and purposeful partnerships not just for today but for tomorrow. We work for Reconciliation, in partnership with those who believe that there can be an alternative to the present order.

## Our School

St Patrick's Primary School is committed to Reconciliation and sees it as the process of bridging the gap that has developed between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Indigenous Australians due to the events of history. Reconciliation is a way of developing lines of communication recognising the integrity and dignity of all parties so that both cultures can walk together in friendship. We hope to develop a relationship marked by equality, empathy and an understanding of culture and difference. We want the reconciliation we are involved in to be a process of healing, a process of putting right the wrongs of the past. FIRE Carriers are required to hand over their position when they leave our school, so that the position is sustained, and the projects continue.


## Our Covenant

St Patrick's looked at a sample covenant established in 2009. Our staff worked to make this covenant their own. We have a reconciliation group who are involved in the continuing development of the covenant –The FIRE carriers. This group consists of staff and students from St Patrick's. As a Fire Carrier you make a promise to work towards the goals of the Foundation, with a strong focus on reconciliation, turning people's negative attitudes towards Aboriginal people into positive ones and raising awareness and education for our fellow students about our shared history.


At St. Patrick's, being a Fire Carrier means more than simply wearing a badge. The School board has cited the covenant and a member from the Catholic Education Office assisted in the development of our covenant.




## Ongoing Commitments and Past Achievements:

Core Value	Action	Responsibility	Activities
 <b>Spirituality</b> Focus area: Learn, teach, Share, Grow towards understanding Aboriginal Spirituality (Holistic)	Through prayer and Knowledge gain/engage a deeper awareness of justice issues	All staff	Continue to incorporate Aboriginal prayers and symbols in liturgy by using the message stick during reading of the Word and school masses  Use of the <a href="#">Aboriginal Our Father</a> for prayers, school masses and community gatherings
	Explore the significance of spirituality in Aboriginal Art	All staff	Use of <a href="#">Richard Campbell's Station of the Cross</a> for our St Patrick's community  <u>Display of Treahna Hamm's Aboriginal Australian Creation Story Artworks with information plaques in Corridor</u>  Display Message stick with <a href="#">Bunjil the Creator</a> in the form of the eagle. ( <a href="#">Bunjil the Creator Spirit</a> extended story)
	Listen to Aboriginal Stories	All Staff	<u>Excursions to places of Aboriginal significance : Walk the Bullawah trail, excursions to Warby ranges, Winton wetlands and Chiltern national park</u>  CEO Aboriginal Education Leaders (Michael Chisholm and Lou Levi) invited to come and educate our students on our past and share her knowledge of local Aboriginal stories.  Listen to dreamtime stories and revisit Aboriginal creation story  Staff encouraged to participate in the Mungo experience.




Core Value	Action	Responsibility	Activities
 <b>Cultural Recognition and Awareness</b> Focus Area: Recognise Cultural Perspectives, Demonstrate Awareness	Embrace Aboriginal stories and culture within the school ceremonies	Students, FIRE carriers, Teachers, Principal	<u>Uncle Dozer Atkinson to welcome visitors to Country at significant events (Beginning of Year Mass, End of Year Mass, NAIDOC Week)</u> Continue Acknowledgement at Assemblies, meetings and Flag raising Maintain Aboriginal perspectives in curriculum through-lines especially within Mappen Units and RE units
	Publicly display our schools respect for Aboriginal people	FIRE Carriers Staff Students	<u>Sacred Garden Space created and maintained by FIRE Carriers in front of school - include prayer for peoples and clans on whose land the school is situated.</u> <u>Plaque to acknowledge Uncle Wally in our garden</u> Display FIRE carriers in hallway Newsletter updates on FIRE carriers Acknowledge Country on our website and emails as well as parent handbook and St Patrick's Annual Report Acknowledgement of Country displays in all classrooms, and spoken for the beginning of all whole school events. Clapping sticks and message sticks are also brought forward for display during assemblies. Create an indigenous Literature display area in the Library
	Seek advice from CEO on cultural wisdom and seek knowledge of the local Aboriginal community	Principal Staff students	Elect and commission FIRE carriers annually Exhibit FIRE Carrier Flame in prominent position Engage with local Aboriginal organizations



Core Value	Action	Responsibility	Activities
 <p><b>Practical Recognition and Justice</b> Focus Area: Walk the Journey together, Put Learnings into Practice</p>	Take practical measures towards Reconciliation and Justice	All staff	<p><u>Uncle Dozer Atkinson to initiate NAIDOC Week in school</u></p> <p><u>Families invited to come to school to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.</u></p> <p><u>School to Participate in Sandhurst Reconciliation Mass on Thursday 2nd June 2022 via Live Stream</u></p> <p>Fly, display and maintain the Aboriginal Flag and Torres Strait Islander Flag</p> <p>Acknowledge, celebrate and promote dates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander significance throughout the year. Including NAIDOC week National Sorry Day and Mabo day (Student Fire Carriers to develop resources and lead)</p> <p>Continue to display Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>Continue to learn about and educate the school community of the Aboriginal story of the land on which the school is situated.</p>



Core Value	Action	Responsibility	Activities
 <p><b>Ecological and Custodian Stewardship</b> Focus Area: Value, Connect and Protect the land, Caring for Country</p>	Investigate Aboriginal cultural perspectives regarding 'caring for country' by their intimate knowledge of local terrains	All staff CEO	<p><u>Walk on land with CES Staff to learn about the local environment about Aboriginal connections and perspectives of the land.</u></p> <p><u>Visit from CES Staff to discuss 'Caring for Country' and importance of preserving and protecting natural land for ecology.</u></p> <p><u>Fire Carriers Study of book 'Young Dark Emu' by Bruce Pascoe</u></p>
	Displaying an attitude of responsibility for the Earth as ecological stewards and custodians.		<p><u>FIRE Carriers to adopt a totem. Encourage classes and year groups to do the same and build relationships with totem promoting stewardship.</u></p> <p><u>Plan community clean ups of local areas or native rehabilitation areas (Kaluna Park)</u></p> <p><u>FIRE Carriers to promote and encourage native plant species throughout school and in particular in Sacred Garden and share knowledge across school</u></p> <p>Ongoing facilitation of Garden Gurus and River Detectives programs with our school.</p> <p>Student leaders elected annually for Sustainability Team</p> <p>School to raise awareness of Earth Day and other national or local events that promote ecological stewardship, including Sandhurst Switches off.</p>