

BRIGHTON BEACH PRIMARY SCHOOL



Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety Action Plan



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact Brighton Beach Primary School on 03 9591 0888 or brighton.beach.ps@education.vic.gov.au.

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

Brighton Beach 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:

- working with regional Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESOs) for advice on how creating a culturally inclusive learning environment and to build capacity to provide support for individual Koorie students attending our school.
- partnering with the Bundjil Nest project and Beachside Koorie Community of Practice for professional development, focussing on embedding First People's perspectives into the learning community.
- 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.
- The school values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives and is committed to culturally safe and inclusive practices. The school engages with local Koorie organisations, artists and Elders to inform planning to consider Koorie voices.

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, prioritising diverse voices through rich texts, films or podcasts that actively listen to and amplify Koorie voices. This includes access to an extensive array of children's books exploring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and personal journeys.

- teachers are supported to work in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to map and develop teaching and learning activities within the Victorian Curriculum priorities, to enable staff to build confidence to deliver Koorie curriculum content and to recognise opportunities to draw upon Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander pedagogies and practices within their classrooms, including opportunities to collaborate across subject areas and share positive learning experiences happening within the school.
- Regular 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 by undertaking the Australian Human Rights Commission, Anti-racism online training course, as prescribed by the Victorian Department of Education and attending conferences such as the Bunjil's Nest project.
- Staff are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the terminology, protocols and principles of the protocols for Koorie education in Victorian primary schools, ensuring they understand the State of Victoria's commitment to Aboriginal education and the protocols for engagement between communities and Brighton Beach Primary School.

Curriculum and learning

Brighton Beach 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's Koorie Education Policy, as appropriate, 'through creating a learning environment for all students that acknowledges, respects and values Koorie cultures and identities'. This includes learning about our shared history. Koorie perspectives, philosophies and practices about caring for Country/place are taught through curriculum programs, as well as physically modelling respect for the skies, waterways and Land on which we live and learn.
- Koorie students will have individual education plans developed in partnership with students, families, and KESOs, using the, 'Positive Behaviour Support Framework', as outlined in the implementation of the 8 essential features of establishing a common philosophy, leadership, clearly defined expected behaviours, and establishing a continuum of clearly defined expected and discouraged behaviours and record keeping.
- Staff plan curriculum units incorporating the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures cross-curriculum priorities embedded in the curriculum areas, targeting the three key concepts of Country/Place, Culture and People by following the protocols and related content descriptors. See Cross-curriculum priority: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.

Assemblies and other school events and activities

School events and activities acknowledge and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture by:

- acknowledging Country and the Traditional Owners of the land on which our school is located, the Bunurong people of the Kulin nation at the start of every school assembly and staff meeting, and during morning yarning circles in the classroom or parent information sessions.
- we have arranged Welcome to Country by local Elders at school events, inviting them to lead our school in Welcome to Country and School smoking Ceremony. We have invited Elders to host student sessions on Indigenous tools, medicinal practices and an explanation of how Koorie students learn.
- partnerships with local Koorie groups have been explored, such as working with Lionel Lauch, Founder of Living Culture ptd; Artist-in-Residences; Indigenous Landscapes Tours.

- Students attend school camps which include Indigenous teachings, information about plant medication, fishing practices and stories from local Elders.
- Our school recognises key events and anniversaries that celebrate Koorie culture, including hosting whole school assemblies where a particular grade will impart their learnings about Koorie people of significance, the importance of Reconciliation Day and what it actually means for people today; and students engage in whole school activities during NAIDOC week to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Koorie people.

Built and digital environment

We ensure our built environment and digital platforms demonstrate an appreciation and acknowledgment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture through:

- at the school entrance is an art display of student totems, where students' understandings of Koorie Dreaming stories and the meaning behind First Peoples symbols were incorporated to help represent their own beliefs and values to welcome visitors to our school.
- displaying a physical, personalised Acknowledgement of Country co-created with students, as a way of showing awareness of, and respect for, the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which the school is located. Physical Acknowledgement to Country signs are displayed around the school, at entrances and within classrooms and the staffroom.
- Brighton Beach Primary School displays the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags at the entrance gates as a demonstration of pride and respect for the histories, cultures and contributions of Australia's First Peoples. This promotes a sense of community partnership and a commitment toward reconciliation.
- Students created a mural with an Artist-in-Residence, Merindah Gunya, to represent our school's physical location and the journey of our students as they pass from Prep to Year 6.
- Wall displays across our school showcase student learning and understanding about Reconciliation.
- Communication to community through the website and emails features an Acknowledgement of Country

Our school values also includes Reconciliation, displayed in each classroom and referenced daily

Our values are:



Relationships

Being inclusive of others by valuing diversity



Respect

Showing a high regard for self, others and property by acting with care and compassion



Resilience

Being optimistic, demonstrating perseverance, keeping things in perspective and management of self with empathy for others



Responsibility

Being accountable for one's own actions, and understanding the impact they have on others and the environment



Reflection

Thinking about what has happened and learning from the experience



Reconciliation

Strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the waterways, the lands, the skies and all who inhabit this place, Country.
We acknowledge the Boon Wurrung and Bunurong people, Ancestors, and Elders of the Kulin Nation and recognise those who continue to protect and promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.
We acknowledge the past and stand together for our future.

Community feedback

Brighton Beach Primary School's practices are regularly reviewed and updated in partnership with our families and local communities.

Brighton Beach Primary School annually reviews key actions in its commitment to the Marrung Education Plan, as set out in the school's Narragunnawali Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Framework.

The school has an established working party to drive the school's actions and invites our community to contact the RAP team via the school Administration Office with any feedback.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Plan last reviewed	August, 2025
Consultation	School Council
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August, 2027