

ACTION PLAN: ABORIGINAL LEARNING, WELLBEING & SAFETY

Reviewed by School Council in December 2022
Approved by the Principal in December 2022



Help for non-English speakers
If you need help to understand this policy, please contact the General Office.

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

Thornbury High 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.

In addition, the school is currently developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) based around the core pillars of relationships, respect and opportunities. Using the Narragunnawali Reconciliation in Education platform the school hopes to further develop high levels of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions.

Family and community perspectives and feedback

We 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 and [insert other communication methods]
- by 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
- liaising and consulting with our Deadly Sista Girlz (Waalitj Foundation) mentor, who works on site at Thornbury High School with our female Koorie students.
- Developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) through the RAP Working Group.

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
- 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

Thornbury High 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 and Training's Koorie Education Policy
- ensuring that all Koorie students have individual education plans developed in partnership with students, families, and KESOs.

- focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures found within Curriculum areas completed by members of RAP Working Group.
- Assemblies and other school events and activities

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

- acknowledging the Country and Traditional Owners of the land on which our school is located (Wurundjeri People) at the start of every school assembly and meeting
- having Koorie students do Welcome to Country at major school events

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 and Torres Strait Islander flags on school grounds.
- displaying plaques/signs outside our main entrance that Acknowledge Country and Traditional Owners
- including an Acknowledgement of Country and Traditional Owners on our website home page and staff email signatures.

COMMUNITY 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 Reception with any feedback, concerns or suggestions.

REVIEW CYCLE

Plan last reviewed:	Dec 22
Consultation:	School Council
Approved by:	Principal
Review date:	Dec 24