

## Cobden Primary School Action Plan

### Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety

Under the Child Safe Standards and Ministerial Order 1359 schools are required to document the measures they are taking to establish culturally safe environments in which the diverse and unique identifies and experiences of Aboriginal children, young people and students are respected and valued.



#### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact Cobden Primary School.

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

Cobden 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.

- beginning events and meetings with a Welcome to Country or an Acknowledgement of Country as a standing agenda item. We use this as an opportunity to pause and reflect or open a discussion
- celebrating the local Aboriginal community in communications with students, staff, volunteers and families. Sharing information through school newsletters, school assemblies
- building schoolwide knowledge of Aboriginal histories, cultures, perspectives, values, skills and attitudes
- using Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESOs) to provide advice to government schools about creating culturally inclusive learning environments
- providing Community Understanding Safety Training (CUST) for staff
- maintaining a bank of digital, hardcopy resources that support the inclusion of Aboriginal content across the curriculum
- recognising key Aboriginal events and anniversaries, access resources and distribute among teaching staff and classrooms
- On key Aboriginal events and anniversaries fly the Koorie flag
- All staff are committed to including the Acknowledgement to Country at the bottom of our email signature.

## **Family and community perspectives and feedback**

We actively 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 individual communications with family members
- 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
- partnering with Gunditjmara Aboriginal Cooperative Ltd to seek feedback and advice on existing and new actions we can take to support the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal students and children in our community
- partnering with Kirrae Health to support the wellbeing, identity and experiences of Aboriginal students in our community

## **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
- support teachers to work in their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to map and develop teaching and learning activities within the Victorian Curriculum priorities to enable staff to build their confidence with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content and to recognise opportunities to draw upon Aboriginal pedagogies and practices within their classrooms
- 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**

Cobden 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 and Training's [Koorie Education Policy](#)
- ensuring that all Koorie students have individual education plans developed in partnership with students, families, and KESOs
- build school-wide knowledge of Aboriginal histories, cultures, perspectives, values, skills and attitudes

### **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 (Kirree Whurrong) on which our school is located at the start of every school assembly and meeting
- arranging Welcome to Country by local Elders at major school events such as the opening of new buildings or campuses
- arranging incursions and excursions, and recognising key events and anniversaries that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture

### **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

### **Review and 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 the school Principal with any feedback, concerns or suggestions.

<b>Plan last reviewed</b>	September 2023
<b>Consultation</b>	School Council (June 2022)
<b>Approved by</b>	Principal
<b>Next scheduled review date</b>	September 2024