

# WARATAH SDS Action Plan

## Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety



### Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office on 9474 8700

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

Waratah SDS 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:

- 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, Parent support groups, SRCs and during the development of Individual Education Plans.
- 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 our local Aboriginal community 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.

### 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
- 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**

Waratah SDS 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.
- Ensuring Koorie Culture is included in our cyclic four-year plan of term themes across all sections of our schools.
- Koorie Art and culture are a part of our Art and Gardening curriculum where our students are exposed to hands on experiences through explicit teaching while also meeting many sensory needs.
- Students say and/or act out the 'Acknowledgement to country' before each morning circle or morning meeting.

### **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, The Wurundjeri land, 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
- Koorie students share their experiences and history during weekly school assemblies
- Our Art expo, every two years, is an opportunity for Aboriginal members of our school community to exhibit their own Artwork

### **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 inside our main entrance that Acknowledge Country and Traditional Owners. We also have plaques, signs and totem poles decorating our outdoor areas and gardens
- 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 Bronwyn Welch with any feedback, concerns or suggestions