

# MELBOURNE HIGH SCHOOL 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 on 98260711

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

Melbourne High School aims to:

Melbourne 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.

### 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 and 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

### 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**

Melbourne 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
- embedding investigations of issues of dispossession, the frontier wars and Koori civil rights movements into the core Year 9 and 10 History curriculum
- embedding investigations of contemporary issues facing Koori people into the school's Year 10 Civics and Citizenship program
- offering two scholarship positions for students of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background

### **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 People, 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.
- including an Acknowledgement of Country and Traditional Owners on our website home page

### **Actively Addressing issues of Racism**

Melbourne High School has a zero tolerance of racism is expressed in our statement of commitment to child safety and is included in our Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and other documents.

- Racism from students, staff, volunteers or visitors is addressed directly by once reported. Racist speech or actions are always dealt with, and the culture of the school works towards preventing incidents from occurring.

- School leaders are at the front of anti-racist action. The school works to address unconscious bias and racism in the school community.
- The school encourages non-Aboriginal school leaders and teachers to commit to ways they can work as an effective ally to Aboriginal students, their families and communities.

### **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 reception (on 98260711) with any feedback, concerns or suggestions.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Action Plan Created	July 2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	July 2024

## **Appendix A – Key events and Anniversaries to Recognise at Melbourne High School**

1. 2008 National Apology to the Stolen Generations - 13 February
2. Close the Gap Day - 18 March
3. Harmony Day - 21 March
4. Sorry Day and Anniversary the 2017 Uluru Statement of the Heart - 26 May
5. Anniversary of the 1967 Referendum - 27 May
6. Reconciliation Week - 27 May to 3 June
7. Mabo Day - 3 June
8. Anniversary of the 1988 Barunga Statement - 11 June
9. Coming of the Light - 1 July
10. NAIDOC week - First week of July
11. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day - 4 August
12. International Day of Indigenous People - 9 August
13. 1963 Yirrkala Bark Petition to Parliament anniversary - 14 August
14. Anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - 13 September
15. Redfern Address - 10 December