

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 Wangaratta High School on (03) 5723 0500 or email wangaratta.hs@education.vic.gov.au

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

Wangaratta 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 several 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, Student Support Groups, during the development of Individual Education Plans, Behaviour Support Plans and PAT Testing. IEPs are regularly updated to meet the needs of each individual student through SSG's involving all family and relevant services.
- 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 and ensure we understand identity, respect culture and eliminate racism and abuse.
- Ensuring Wangaratta High School is a culturally safe environment for our Koorie students.
- partnering with the Bpangerang People to seek feedback and advice on existing and new cultural activities or process's 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

- Appoint a Marrung Lead in our school and for them to attend SPIKE Training
- Ensure the Marrung Lead is involved and initiates cultural activities for our Koori students
- 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

Wangaratta 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.
- Resource our school library with books written by Aboriginal authors and reflect on the Aboriginal Community.
- Implement subjects/textbooks that connect with Aboriginal history.

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 Bpangerang 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.
- 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
- Staff including an Acknowledgement of Country and Traditional Owners on their signature

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 Wangaratta High School with any feedback, concerns or suggestions.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Plan last reviewed	August 2023. Approval is pending consultation with students and community members
Consultation	Koorie students and families. Note that this policy is in final draft, pending review by these groups
Approved by	Executive Principal, Dave Armstrong
Next scheduled review date	August 2025