



CREATING A CULTURALLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ABORIGINAL CHILDREN

Springside Primary school celebrates the culture, knowledge and experiences of the First Nations Peoples. We are committed to creating and maintaining a school environment that empowers Aboriginal 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.

We actively seek participation and feedback from Aboriginal students, families and Community by:

- acknowledging the existing knowledge of Aboriginal 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 twice a term meetings
- 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 the 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

We have developed the following strategies to promote cultural safety in our school community:

- using the Koorie Educational Calendar to inform the school community of important upcoming dates, events and learning opportunities
- fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags
- acknowledgment to country at the front of the school
- begin events with Acknowledgement of Country as a standing agenda item
- make Aboriginal voice part of decision making in matters that affect Aboriginal students
- learn more about Aboriginal histories and cultures, both locally and across Australia. Speak with respect about Aboriginal culture and people
- provide a safe and welcome environment for Aboriginal children
- acknowledge and draw on the existing knowledge of Aboriginal students and their families
- ask for feedback from Aboriginal students and their families about what can be improved to create a culturally safe environment
- use Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESOs) to provide advice to government schools about creating culturally inclusive learning environments
- actively address racism and express zero tolerance of racism in our Continuum to Response to Behaviour, our Wellbeing and Engagement Policy and our preventing bullying policy
- guide and train staff and volunteers
- train staff and volunteers to understand the importance of Aboriginal culture to the wellbeing and safety of Aboriginal students
- arrange Community Understanding Safety Training (CUST) or equivalent for staff
- embed a genuine connection to culture and country in school planning and curriculum to find out about the Traditional Owners of the land/s where the school is situated at the Map of Indigenous Australia and learn about the importance of acknowledging Traditional Owners
- embed a collective care and understanding of local Aboriginal land