



Catholic
Parish of
Nagambie

Growing in the Spirit Together

St. Mary's Avenel

St. Malachy's Nagambie

St. Joseph's School Nagambie



St. Joseph's School

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Indigenous Education

Policy developed: September 1st 2014

Policy review date: September 2014

Identity Statement.

St Joseph's School is a Catholic Community in the Josephite tradition where we learn and grow in the Spirit together.

Vision Statements.

St Joseph's School strives to be an educating community:

- Where the total development of each child is nurtured.
- Where an environment of trust, respect, hope and safety is built.
- Where families and the school work in partnership sharing the responsibility to educate the child.
- Where school life is an integral part of parish and the wider community.
- Where the students learn in a challenging, enjoyable and cooperative way.
- Where the teachings of Jesus are taught, modeled and lived.

Graduate Outcomes.

St Joseph's students learn to become:

- Problem solving, inquiring, critical thinkers striving to be their best.
- Competent and ethical users of technology.
- Hope filled, independent, resourceful, creative, resilient and confident young people.
- Knowledgeable and appreciative of the Catholic faith.
- Socially adept, respectful, just, environmentally conscious and appreciative of diversity.

Basic Beliefs

We will focus on the three core elements of Reconciliation according to an Indigenous perspective: Spirituality, Cultural Recognition and Awareness, and Practical Reconciliation and Justice (which will be evident in our school's covenant). This will form a natural part of our curriculum within the school.

Rationale:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's perspectives must form an integral part of every student's education. This will lead to an understanding and appreciation by all students of the contemporary cultural heritage and lifestyle of indigenous people as well as the history and traditional aspects of indigenous life.

Aims:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should become a natural part of all curriculum areas wherever possible.
- Every child at our school has the right to know the basic features of Australian history in order to develop his/ her cultural identity.
- Our school will ensure that historic information presented to students is authentic and includes an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's perspective on the country being studied.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's perspectives should focus on the local community and on indigenous communities of other parts of Victoria, Australia and other countries.
- Members of the Taungurung community will be invited to participate in the school community and we will recognise their right to have input into curriculum development.
- The resources used to develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's perspective will support the present day realities and issues as well as the historical perspectives.
- Set a budget to cover the cost of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's resources.

Implementations:

- Members of the Taungurung community will be invited to speak to and work with students and teachers at our school.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people performers will be invited to share their cultural heritage with our students.
- Elected Fire Carriers (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education) will be ceremonially initiated to represent students on the school's journey to Reconciliation and educate the school community about the local Aboriginal story.
- We will continue display a Message stick and other artifacts in a prominent position in our school as well as at Liturgical celebrations.
- Important Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's dates will be celebrated and recognized each year including NAIDOC week and Reconciliation week.
- Maintain contact with CEO personal who can assist with developing relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's Perspectives.
- Acknowledgement of Country will remain an integral part of major gatherings, assemblies and routines.
- We will continue to fly the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander flags daily and proudly.

Resources

- NAIDOC Week website
- CEO Personnel
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's
- AusVELS CEO Indigenous Perspectives Network
- St Joseph's Nagambie Reconciliation Covenant (available in appendix)

Review:

This policy will be reviewed in line with our 'Policy Review Schedule'. All policies are stored on the curriculum server in the staff section, under the banner of Policies.

Appendix:

St Joseph's Nagambie Reconciliation Covenant

Everyone please read and make the effort to do these activities which we have committed to in this covenant.

Covenant

We recognise the special place and culture of Aboriginal peoples within Australia. We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples have been the caretakers of this Land for more than 60,000 years. We respect their spiritual connection to Mother Earth through the Dreaming.

'An apology begins the healing process. Apology means understanding, a willingness to enter into the suffering. It implies a commitment to do more'. The late Sir Ronald Wilson, Chair of the National Inquiry into the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

We understand that practical measures need to address the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal people in education, health, employment, and general opportunity.

"Reconciliation is an active pursuit – it's about getting on with what's needed and what we know to get the results we all want, and that's a mixture of measures that target the body, the mind and the spirit." Mick Dodson, Australian of the Year, National Press Club address, 17 February 2009

True Reconciliation requires national and local solutions achieved through positive and purposeful partnerships not just for today but for tomorrow. We work for Reconciliation, in partnership with those who believe that there can be an alternative to the present order.

Our School

(What do we mean by Reconciliation? What responsibility do we have as individuals as a group? Why is Reconciliation important in our School?)

Why is Reconciliation important in your school?)

St Joseph's primary School is committed to Reconciliation and sees it as the process of bridging the gap that has developed between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non Indigenous Australians due to the events of history. Reconciliation is a way of developing lines of communication recognising the integrity and dignity of all parties so that both cultures can walk together in friendship. we hope to develop a relationship marked by equality, empathy and an understanding of culture and difference. We want the reconciliation we are involved in to be a process of healing, a process of putting right.

Our Covenant Reconciliation Covenant, who sits on your Reconciliation Covenant working group and any other relevant information ie. Our school community was presented with ideas for Reconciliation in our local community by the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Melbourne, who were and are involved in the continuing development of our Covenant -

Our school community adapted ideas from an example covenant established in 2009. Our staff and students then worked to make this covenant their own. We have a reconciliation group who are involved in the continuing development of the covenant. This group consist of staff and students and has the support of the school board.

FIRE Carriers:

Laura Pentreath, Liz Tang, Leo Jones, Julie Price, Sue Deane and Prue Lemon

Our Short Term and Long Term Targets:

Spirituality

Focus Area: Learn , Teach, Share, Grow towards understanding Aboriginal Spirituality (holistic)

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested activities/resources
Through Prayer and knowledge gain/engage a deeper awareness of justice issues	All staff 2SJ to make prayer cards	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate Aboriginal prayers and symbols in liturgy Learn and use the Aboriginal Our Father Make Aboriginal Prayer cards for each classroom.
Research and identify Major Justice Issues	Senior students as a part of Literacy.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice Based on Truth Liturgy – month of the Holy Souls. Flag ritual - Fly Flags at half mast in memory of the massacres of Aboriginal people at 68 sites around Victoria
Explore the significance or Spirituality in Aboriginal art	Art Class/Art teacher All staff through RE	Lent/Easter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Campbell's Stations of the Cross

Listen to Aboriginal Stories	All staff	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch The Quest of Jimmy Pike http://www.roninfilms.com.au/feature/481.html • Incorporate Aboriginal Creation stories • Screen Knowing Home; a personal spiritual journey
Use the message stick during reading of the Word and school Masses	REC All Staff	Ongoing	

Cultural Recognition & Awareness

Focus Area: Recognise Cultural Perspectives, Demonstrate Awareness

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested activities/resources
Embrace Aboriginal stories and culture within school ceremonies	All Staff	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledge Country at School Assemblies • Create new Acknowledgments of country. • Incorporate Aboriginal perspectives in curriculum • Acknowledge Country on School website and school's printed material such as: Acknowledge, Respect and Celebrate on Aboriginal land • Annually elect a FIRE Carrier and perform ceremony
Publicly display our schools respect for Aboriginal people.	Librarian All staff 2SJ Indigenous coordinator		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exhibit Fire Carrier Flame in prominent position • Educate the school community of the Aboriginal story of the land on which the school is situated • Ensure Library has an Aboriginal section available to all students • Display Aboriginal posters in classrooms • Exhibit and study a River Dreaming ; have students write about how the story affected them • Celebrate National Apology Day • Celebrate National Reconciliation Week • Celebrate NAIDOC Week (as this falls in the school holidays, put out the details for Shepparton's celebrations in the newsletter) • Celebrate National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day and OTDFs Birthday
Seek advice from ACM on cultural wisdom and seek knowledge of the local Aboriginal community.			

Practical Reconciliation & Justice

Focus Area: Walk the Journey together, Put Learnings into Practice

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested activities/resources	
Take Practical Measures toward Reconciliation and Justice			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fly, display and maintain the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flag• Display and maintain Aboriginal Acknowledgement plaque• Embrace, connect with and listen to Aboriginal Elders in our area (Shepparton/Talk to Sarah Skinner about meeting with her partners mother who is Aboriginal)• Fundraise for the Opening the Doors Foundation commit to an ongoing giving commitment.	* * *