



LYNDHURST  
SECONDARY  
COLLEGE

Lyndhurst Secondary College

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 Front office for assistance.

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

Lyndhurst Secondary College 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 (First Nations) 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.

The term 'Aboriginal' includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is important to be respectful of how individual children, students, their families, and community refer to themselves, and use appropriate language. At Lyndhurst Secondary College we have a First Nations Team that consists of our Koorie students, the Koorie Education and Engagement Leader and the Assistant Principal responsible for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. This team meets once a month (or when needed) to discuss issues affecting students and plan for future events.

Cultural safety includes being provided with a safe, nurturing and positive environment where Aboriginal children:

- feel comfortable being themselves.
- feel comfortable expressing their culture, including their spiritual and belief systems.
- are supported by carers who respect their Aboriginality and encourage their sense of self and identity.

### Family and community perspectives and feedback

We actively seek participation and feedback from Koorie (First Nations) students, families and Community by:

- acknowledging the existing knowledge of Koorie (First Nations) 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 regular phone calls and emails to parents/carers.

- working with our regional Koorie Engagement Support Officer (KESO) Travis Gardner, 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 Bunurong Land Council, we aim 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 aim to preserve and protect the sacred lands and waterways of our ancestors, their places, traditional cultural places, and stories.
- Partnering with the Casey Aboriginal Gathering Place, we aim to provide support and receive advice from the staff for our students through regular discussions and gatherings.

### **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 Learning Areas (LAs) 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.
- Ensure staff are aware of the Koorie (First Nations) students at Lyndhurst Secondary College and they are flagged on Compass (SMS – Student Management System).

### **Curriculum and learning**

Lyndhurst Secondary College supports the development of high expectations and individualised learning for Koorie (First Nations) 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 at Student Support Groups (SSGs).

### **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 (Bunurong people of the Southeastern Kulin nation) at the start of every school assembly and meeting.
- Organising 'Welcome to Country' and 'Smoking Ceremonies' by local Elders at major school events such as the start of each year's Whole school Assembly or Harmony Day.
- arranging incursions and excursions and recognising key events and anniversaries that celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture such as Reconciliation and NAIDOC week and Sorry Day.
- Fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags on school grounds.
- Display plaques and signs to Acknowledge Country and Traditional Owners.
- Make Aboriginal voice part of decision making in matters that affect Aboriginal students. Be open to different ways of doing and expressing things.
- Celebrate the local Aboriginal community in communications with students, staff, volunteers and families. Share information through school newsletters, school assemblies, parent information nights.
- Lead on safety and inclusion for all Aboriginal students and their families. Learn more about Aboriginal histories and cultures, both locally and across Australia. Speak with respect and confidence about Aboriginal culture, knowledge systems and people.
- Build schoolwide knowledge of Aboriginal histories, cultures, perspectives, values, skills and attitudes.

### **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

### **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 Lyndhurst Secondary College with any feedback, concerns or suggestions.

### **Review and approval**

<b>Plan last reviewed</b>	April 2023
<b>Consultation</b>	Marrung Student Group May 2023 Executive Team May 2023
<b>Approved by</b>	Principal
<b>Next scheduled review date</b>	April 2025