



<b>Responsible Officers:</b>	Principal
<b>Version:</b>	2.0
<b>Approved By:</b>	College Board
<b>Date Approved:</b>	ATCS/ALE

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS POLICY



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Approved By:	College Board
Date Approved:	18 September 2024
Next Review Date:	30 June 2026

## ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS POLICY

- we consider these children when developing and implementing policies and procedures related to child safety at the College
- we educate our Staff about the strengths of Aboriginal cultures, their importance to the wellbeing and safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and students, cultural safety and the strategies and procedures we have employed to create a culturally safe environment
- we recognise that approaches to parenting vary considerably across culturally diverse groups, however the safety of the student should always be the main consideration.

Some of the strategies and initiatives that Billanook College may implement to ensure that the College is a cultural safety environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students include:

- naming of our College 'Billanook' is the name given by the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation for the local area in which the College is located
- developing a Reconciliation Action Plan and/or talking with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations with Reconciliation Action Plans or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-inclusive policies for guidance on how the College can continue to be culturally safe (for more information refer to Reconciliation Australia's resources on [Reconciliation Action Plans](#) and [Narraquinnawali – Reconciliation in Education](#))
- contacting and engaging with local Traditional Owner groups and/or Registered Aboriginal Party
- educating students about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture by embedding it in our curriculum across different year levels and subjects
- recognising the continuing negative impacts of colonisation and past government policies and practices on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- seeking and considering cultural expert advice when developing and reviewing strategies for addressing child safety, child safety information and processes for students and families to raise child safety concern
- actively engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families about how they would like to be involved by:
  - providing an environment where they feel safe and valued
  - creating opportunities for families to voice concerns and to help define solutions
  - holding informal meetings or surveys to pro-



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