Ascot Vale Primary School - Action Plan

Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety

15TH June 2026

Help for non-English speakers
If you need help to understand this policy, please contact the Ascot Vale Primary School office in person, ascot.vale.ps@education.vic.gov.au or on 9370 6507.

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

Ascot Vale PS 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 a number of 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.
- 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 members of the local 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. For example, Aunty Merilyn Duff (below), Director of Eternal Ancestors Aboriginal Cultural Consultancy, was called upon in 2025 to provide cultural advice in developing the school's 140th Birthday School Production script and, acknowledging Aboriginal history and contributions to our society with sensitivity and importance. Merilyn also opened the performance, bringing a special cultural dimension and sense of authenticity to the production.

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 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

Ascot Vale PS 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.

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 at the start of every school assembly and meeting, the Wurundjeri people of the Woiwurrung language group, in the Kulin nation. They are the traditional owners of the Yarra River Valley, covering much of the present location of Melbourne.
- 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 signs on our main pedestrian entrance gates that Acknowledge Country and Traditional Owners
- displaying a framed copy of the Sorry Day speech in a prominent location.
- including an Acknowledgement of Country and Traditional Owners on our website home page and Newsletters

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 the school office on 9370 6507 with any feedback, concerns or suggestions.

Review and approval

Plan last reviewed	June 2026
Consultation	School Council 15/6/2026 Staff 15/6 2026 Parent / Carer Community 12/6/2026
Approved by / date	Susan Osborne – Principal 15th June 2026
Next scheduled review date Noting that the Action Plan has a mandatory minimum review cycle of 2 years or following a relevant child safety incident	June 2028