



Topic: ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Policy No: B3

Policy Area: EDUCATION

Originally Released: 2009

Date for Review and Reformatting: 2014

Date for Review: 2016

Principal: MRS KERRIE MERRITT

1. RATIONALE

Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of Australia. Catholic education embraces the richness and diversity which exists within the Aboriginal nations of Australia. Catholic education is committed to maximising the learning opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Catholic school communities have a responsibility to create an understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal people, their histories, cultures and spirituality. Catholic schools will play an important role in the formation of their students to develop as active and contributing members of Australian society. 'Catholic schools can serve as models for all within Western Australia who seek to create genuine communities. Such communities are always founded upon shared commitment to the common good' (Mandate paragraph 6).¹

2. DEFINITION

- 2.1 The term Aboriginal refers to the original inhabitants of Australia and includes the Torres Strait Islander people.
- 2.2 The term Aboriginal education applies to all areas within the school including learning and teaching, reconciliation, employment, career pathways and community partnerships.
- 2.3 The term Aboriginal Education Plan refers to schools developing a formalised approach through the development of a strategic action plan to address Aboriginal education in the school.
- 2.4 The term 'Aboriginal Nation' refers to Aboriginal society as one that is diverse, complex and sophisticated. Australia is made up of many Aboriginal Nations.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to Assumption Catholic Primary School, Mandurah.

4. PRINCIPLES

- 4.1 Aboriginal people have a rich history, culture and spirituality that can be shared with all Australians.
- 4.2 Assumption Catholic Primary School is committed to increasing knowledge and understanding of the histories, cultures and experience of Aboriginal people as the first peoples of Australia.
- 4.3 Catholic schools recognise that parents are the first educators of their children
- 4.4 Assumption Catholic Primary School is committed to collaborative decision making and capacity building with Aboriginal people, parents, caregivers, families and communities.
- 4.5 Aboriginal students attending Assumption Catholic Primary School have the right to be provided with educational experiences comparable to all Australians whilst maintaining their cultural identity.
- 4.6 Assumption Catholic Primary School is committed to reconciliation which promotes the principles of inclusivity, equity, justice and consultation.
- 4.7 Assumption Catholic Primary School is committed to increasing employment and promotional opportunities for Aboriginal people.

5. PROCEDURES

- 5.1 Assumption Catholic Primary School in consultation with their school communities shall develop an Aboriginal Education Plan which is consistent with guidelines provided by national and state agreements. (Annual Education Plan in Appendix)
- 5.2 Assumption Catholic Primary School shall integrate Aboriginal education across all areas of curriculum.
- 5.3 Ongoing professional learning in Aboriginal understandings shall be provided to all staff working in Assumption Catholic Primary School. Members of the local Aboriginal community and the Catholic Education Office of WA shall be invited to be involved in the delivery of this professional learning.
- 5.4 Assumption Catholic Primary School shall actively encourage and support Aboriginal people to be represented appropriately on school decision making committees in schools with Aboriginal students.
- 5.5 Assumption Catholic Primary School shall actively encourage and support Aboriginal people to undertake training and further education.
- 5.6 Assumption Catholic Primary School shall be fully involved in the reconciliation process through the recognition, acceptance and celebration of Aboriginal cultural traditions and values.
 - 5.6.1 Welcome to country at all Gatherings and Assemblies
 - 5.6.2 NAIDOC Week celebrations
 - 5.6.3 Sorry Day

6. REFERENCES

Bishops Mandate for the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia 2009 - 2015

7. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy 2-B3 'Aboriginal Education'

Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy 2-D5 'Student Enrolment'

Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy 2-B7 'Justice Education'

Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy 2-B2 'Curriculum'

8. REVIEW HISTORY

Year of Review:	Reviewed by:	Amendments/Review
2009	ACPS Staff	Originally released
2014	ACPS Staff	Reviewed and reformatted
Next Review 2016		