

# St Patrick's Primary School Port Fairy

## Cultural Safety and Inclusion Action Plan



In February 2022 the Ministerial Order No. 1359 – Implementing the Child Safe Standards – managing the risk of child abuse in schools and school boarding premises (MO 1359) was released. The 11 Child Safe Standards outlined in MO 1359 came into effect on 1 July 2022 in all Victorian schools.

One of the Key changes included in the new requirements is for a greater focus on safety for First Nations children and young people linked to Child Safe Standard 1.

Child Safe Standard 1 – Culturally Safe Environments. Providing safe environments for children has positive lifelong impacts that can't be underestimated and cultural safety is a key dimension of safety for First Nations children

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

- feel comfortable being themselves;

- **feel secure to express their culture and spirituality;**
- **are supported by a school community who respect their Aboriginality, and encourage their sense of self and identity.**

**To support and continue to embed this Standard, St. Patrick's Primary School Port Fairy commits to continue to build a strong school culture to support cultural inclusion by:**

- Having a RAP Team and RAP leaders who work together in a respectful, inclusive and effective manner to strengthen relationships and understanding of First Nations culture;
- When gathering as a school community with students, begin with an Acknowledgement of Country;
- When gathering as a school community on formal occasions, such a whole school masses, begin with an Acknowledgement of Country;
- When gathering as a school community with only adults present, such as School Board Meeting, PNF Meetings, Parent Information Sessions etc, begin with an Acknowledgement of Country;
- Fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in the school entrance;
- Display an Acknowledgement of Country in the school entrance;
- Make First Nations voice part of decision-making in matters that affect First Nations students. Be open to different ways of doing and expressing things;
- Celebrate the local Gunditjmara community in communications with students, staff and families. Share learnings through school newsletters and school assemblies;
- Lead on safety and inclusion for all First Nations students and their families. Speak with respect and confidence about First Nations culture, knowledge systems and people;
- Provide a welcoming environment for First Nations children;
- Actively address racism;
- Build knowledge of First Nations culture in school planning, including immersions in significant cultural events;
- Embed First Nations histories and cultures when planning curriculum;
- Partner with members of the Gunditjmara Cooperative community;

- Review and assess how the school supports cultural inclusion, via development of a Reconciliation Action Plan;
- Recognise key events and anniversaries, such as National Sorry Day, National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.