

F.I.R.E. Carrier Covenant est. 2021

Covenant

We recognise the special place and culture of Aboriginal peoples within Australia. We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples have been the caretakers of this Land for more than 60,000 years. We respect their spiritual connection to Mother Earth through the Dreaming.

'An apology begins the healing process. Apology means understanding, a willingness to enter into the suffering. It implies a commitment to do more'. The late Sir Ronald Wilson, Chair of the National Inquiry into the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

We understand that practical measures need to address the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal people in education, health, employment, and general opportunity.

"Reconciliation is an active pursuit – it's about getting on with what's needed and what we know to get the results we all want, and that's a mixture of measures that target the body, the mind and the spirit." Mick Dodson, Australian of the Year, National Press Club address, 17 February 2009

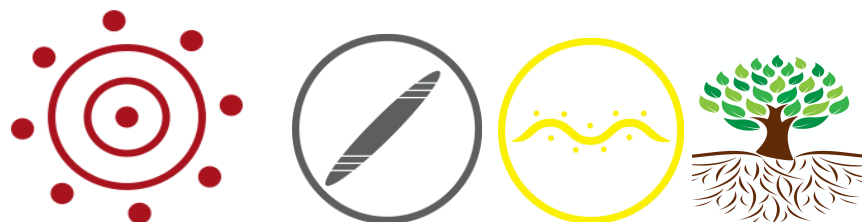
True Reconciliation requires national and local solutions achieved through positive and purposeful partnerships not just for today but for tomorrow. We work for Reconciliation, in partnership with those who believe that there can be an alternative to the present order.

Covenants emphasize the ethos and faith belief of Catholic schools and the Social Justice response they are committed to make as part of their Christian identity. Schools' expressed commitment is reflected in practical goals and actions which they strive to achieve in the year ahead. School covenants express in ways, specific to each school, recognition of the special contribution Aboriginal peoples and their cultures make to Australian society, their relationship and connection to the land, their present position of disadvantage and social exclusion. They declare the school and school community's commitment to stand in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples to achieve true reconciliation and acknowledgement, by all Australians, of their rightful position within Australian society. (*firecarriers Sandhurst.pdf*)

Our School

(What do we mean by Reconciliation? What responsibility do we have as individuals as a group? Why is Reconciliation important in our School?)

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are connected to the oldest continuing cultures on the planet. St Monica's Primary school's vision for reconciliation is for our school community to work together through education to ensure the living cultures, stories and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are embedded into learning and teaching and celebrated by all as part of our school story. Students at St Monica's will know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures are alive today. We acknowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and identities are



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diverse across Australia. As a school we aim to provide meaningful opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to achieve their full potential. St Monica's primary school is responsible for promoting and building respectful two-way relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These relationships will provide for the sharing of knowledge and ideas, and the opportunity to listen and learn from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about the past, their current circumstances, and their vision for the future. We will be a place where Aboriginal culture is respected and celebrated.

Our Covenant

(Describe how you developed your Reconciliation Covenant, who sits on your Reconciliation Covenant working group and any other relevant information ie.

Original version of the covenant was developed by the Sandhurst Diocese Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Education Officers in conjunction with written by Vicki Clark. Ideas for our school specific covenant were developed by our leadership team in consultation with Catherine Coysh (Parent, AWHS Program Manager and Proud Gunditjmara Woman) Johnny Murray (Proud Yorta Yorta / Duduroa Dhargal man, Dinawans Connection (Wodonga), our student and staff F.I.R.E Carrier group. Our school community were presented with ideas for Reconciliation in our local community. The leadership Team are involved in the continuing development of our Covenant with regular consultation with the local Aboriginal community.

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

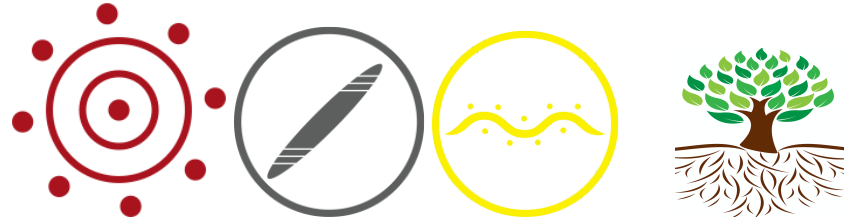
Culturally safe environments

St Monica's Primary School takes account of and makes reasonable efforts to accommodate for the diversity of all children in implementing the Child Safe Standards relating to following standard.

5.1 Schools and school boarding premises must establish culturally safe environments in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children, young people and students are respected and valued

Actions

1. In endorsing and documenting the following activities contained within this FIRE Carrier covenant, Our School St Monica's Primary commits to completing or putting steps in place to complete all actions through measurable targets outlined by the dates set out in the timeline included.
2. This FIRE Carrier covenant will be made accessible on the school's website to ensure adherence to the child safe standard referred to in the document.



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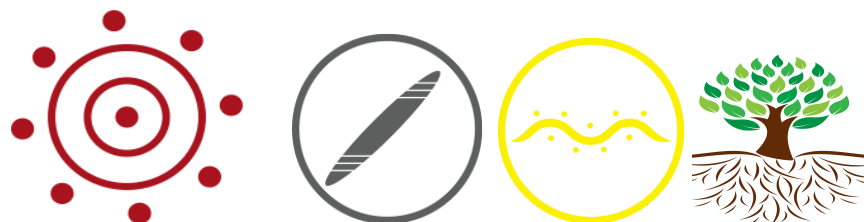
3. A review at the end of school year will be conducted and the plan will be updated and passed to the following year's [Leadership team](#).

Our Short Term and Long Term Targets

6 Months

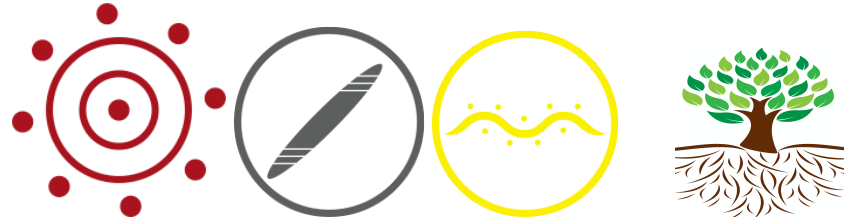
12 Months

2 Years



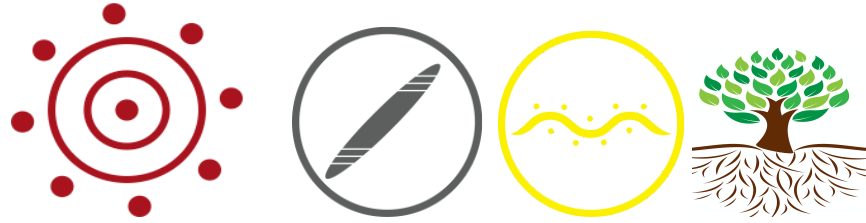
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Spirituality			
Focus Area: Learn , Teach, Share, Grow towards understanding Aboriginal Spirituality (holistic)			
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities/Resources
<p>Through Prayer and knowledge gain/engage a deeper awareness of justice issues.</p> <p>Use Aboriginal prayers and songs for class prayer, mass and liturgies.</p> <p>Explore the significance of spirituality in Aboriginal art in the classroom, community activities and mass and liturgies.</p> <p>Create an Australian identity during time of Advent.</p> <p>Listen to Aboriginal Stories.</p> <p>Explore Aboriginal ways of knowing through meditation.</p>	<p>Whole school community, Leadership, R.E Leader, F.I.R.E Carriers</p>	<p>Continuous - linked to school improvement plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to incorporate Aboriginal prayers and symbols in liturgy by using the message stick during reading of the Word and at school masses. • Aboriginal Mural in the Assembly Area and Aboriginal art in garden. • Learn and use the Aboriginal Our Father for the opening of the school year mass, so that it may be used by the community at other year level liturgies. • Use Stations of the Cross in the Stations of the Cross Liturgy commissioned by the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry of Victoria in 2017 that are arranged along the main wall of their chapel in Thornbury, Melbourne. They were imagined, dreamed and painted by John Dunn, an Olkola/Djabaguy man from Far North Queensland. • Perform 'Turning of the Coolamon Ceremony' using the Coolamon Liturgy in a staff liturgy for Advent. • Investigate possible resources to purchase for use in the school's Religious Education Program, to break open the Indigenous perspectives. • Reading DreamTime stories appropriate to our Source of Life Units and Inquiry Units • Investigate local Indigenous sites as possible excursion locations for all students such as the Yindyamarra Sculpture Walk, Mt Pilot and displays at Wodonga Tafe. • Elders who have been depicted as murals through Aboriginal Art. • Use of Uncle Jack Charles meditation on Smiling Minds, Dadirri and well mob facilitated mindfulness sessions. • Smoking ceremony for Foundation students to begin their primary schooling and a smoking ceremony for grade 6 students to conclude their primary schooling • Participate in local ceremonies (eg 2023 repatriation ceremony)

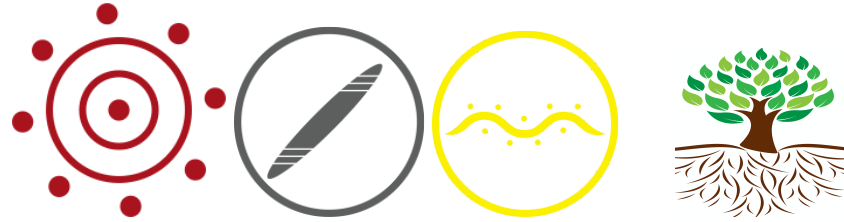


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Cultural Recognition & Awareness			
Focus Area: Recognise Cultural Perspectives, Demonstrate Awareness			
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities / Resources
<p>Embrace Aboriginal stories and culture within school ceremonies.</p> <p>Publicly display our schools respect for Aboriginal people.</p> <p>Seek advice from ACM on cultural wisdom and seek knowledge of the local Aboriginal community.</p> <p>Engage in professional development and cross cultural opportunities to better cater for the needs of Aboriginal students in our schools</p>	<p>Whole school community, Leadership, R.E Leader, F.I.R.E Carriers</p>	<p>Continuous - linked to school improvement plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to Acknowledge Country at School Assemblies, gatherings and Masses. • Make connections with local elders where possible. • Maintain Aboriginal perspectives throughout all areas of curriculum. • Continue to Acknowledge Country on School website and school's printed material. • Continue to include the Acknowledgement of Country in the school newsletter. • Include in any material with images of Aboriginal people a warning - content may include images of deceased persons. • Annually elect FIRE Carriers and be involved with the Sandhurst Diocese ceremonies. • Exhibit Fire Carrier Flame in prominent position - entry to the school Office. • Educate the school community of the Aboriginal story of the land on which the school is situated. • Identify Indigenous Perspective resources in the library/Sacred Space. • Display Aboriginal posters in classrooms or corridors. Develop, maintain and update a Reconciliation Board. • Engage with local Aboriginal groups and organisations. • Celebrate National Sorry Day and NAIDOC week • Commemoration of National Government Apology. • Celebrate Reconciliation Week. • Continue to teach units for Reconciliation and NAIDOC week. • Aboriginal perspectives included in all areas of learning. • Scripture Navigator to include 'Aboriginal perspectives/knowing'

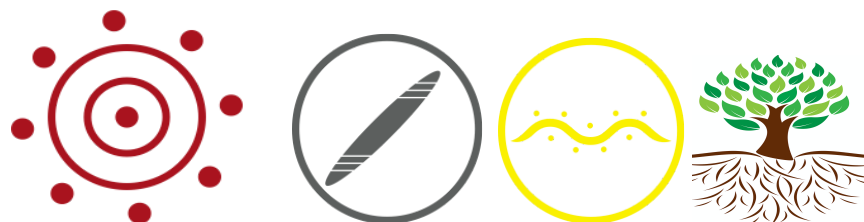


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Practical Reconciliation & Justice Focus Area: Walk the Journey together, Put Learnings into Practice			
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Measurable Target
Take Practical Measures toward Reconciliation and Justice Acknowledge and teach the 'true' history of Australia Empower the FIRE Carrier leaders to share the learning and message within the school	Whole school community, Leadership, R.E Leader, F.I.R.E Carriers	Continuous - linked to school improvement plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Display the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. ● Teach and learn the truths of history. ● Display and maintain Aboriginal artefacts in the front office. Add to this display over time. ● Attend significant gatherings such as Reconciliation Masses ● Make links to Victorian curriculum. ● Provide learning opportunity for FIRE Carrier teachers & students to grow their knowledge and understanding ● Provide opportunities for FIRE Carrier leaders to pass on their knowledge and learning (Community afternoons/days, classroom visits, assemblies, links to Catholic Social Teachings and social justice classroom/prayer actions) ● Continue to use Reconciliation units for all year levels (Healing Foundation)



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Ecological Stewardship. Focus Area: Ecological renewal and sustainability depends upon spiritual awareness and an attitude of responsibility – Caring for country.			
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Measureable Target
<p>Take Practical Measures toward teaching and learning of how Indigenous people cared for and lived off the land</p> <p>Develop knowledge and skills of our Earth Care leaders and FIRE Carriers</p> <p>Engage in Sandhurst switches off. Celebrate Earth Hour.</p> <p>Empower the FIRE Carrier leaders to share the learning and message within the school</p> <p>Share the story of Totems how they are attached to the environment and what that means for us today regarding Ecological Stewardship.</p>	<p>Whole school community, Leadership, R.E Leader, F.I.R.E Carriers</p>	<p>Continuous - linked to school improvement plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teach and learn the Indigenous way of living. ● Opportunities to learn the Didgeridoo or Yidaki for our Indigenous boys. ● Sustain learning and teaching practices ● Make links to Victorian curriculum. ● Continue Earth Care program. ● Earth Care leaders share learning and provide opportunities for the whole school to be engaged and immersed in particular ways to help the land and country. ● Provide learning opportunity for our Earth Care and FIRE Carrier students to grow their knowledge and understanding ● Provide opportunities for FIRE Carrier leaders to pass on their knowledge and learning. ● Students will be able to recall and retell the story. ● Create an Indigenous space/Sensory Garden as a learning space to tell this story. ● Links to Catholic Social Teachings.

The FIRE Carrier Project is an initiative of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, the Opening the Doors Foundation and the Sandhurst Catholic Education Office, to promote and assist Reconciliation through Education in our Schools.