

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Intentions Child Safe Standards



Date July 2022

Review July 2025

1. Culturally Safe environment

Standard 1: Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experience of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.

Compliance Action Step:

Plan of action- steps to be taken by July 1, 2023, to establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children are respected and valued.

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

- feel comfortable being themselves.
- Feel comfortable expressing their culture, including their spiritual and belief systems.
- Are supported by carers who respect their aboriginality and encourage their sense of self and identity.

Cultural safety upholds the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to:

- Identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander without fear of retribution or questioning.
- Receive an education that strengthens their culture and identity.
- Maintain connection to their land and Country.
- Maintain their strong kinship ties and social obligations.
- Be taught their cultural heritage by their Elders.
- Receive information in a culturally sensitive, relevant and accessible manner.
- Be involved in services that are culturally respectful.

2. Understand Identity

Identifying as Aboriginal is one part of a child's identity. Aboriginal peoples have different life experiences and characteristics. Schools must recognise that each person is unique with their own characteristics, strengths and challenges.

Actions:

- Promote the importance of and commitment to cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and among the staff and volunteers of the school.
- Ensure that staff and volunteers understand Lauriston's expectations and behaviours around cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families.

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- Ensure school policies and procedures together create a culturally safe and inclusive environment and meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander children, young people and their families.
- Ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people's human and cultural rights are reflected in Lauriston's daily operations.
- Build meaningful relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families.

3. Respect culture

Culture and identity are linked. By supporting Aboriginal children to feel strong in their identity Lauriston will help them enjoy their cultural rights.

Australia's colonial history has caused trauma and hurt that individuals, families and communities feel today. Aboriginal communities have a long history of resilience and growth in the face of adversity and trauma.

Adopting and demonstrating a public commitment involves:

- Truth telling about Australian history.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander self-determination and social justice.
- Upholding the human and cultural rights specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander children, families, communities.
- Working together with Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people.
- Provide training to staff and volunteers on the cultural rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and encourage them to listen to their views.
- Embed opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to voice their views and opinions on the curriculum offerings and programs offered at Lauriston.
- Begin School events and meetings with a Welcome to Country or an Acknowledgement of Country as a standing agenda item.
- Fly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander flags at our school.
- Display plaques and/or signs in our school that acknowledge country and the traditional owners.
- Provide opportunities to celebrate the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in our learning activities and communications to the members of our School community.
- Embed in our learning activities and curriculum knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, perspective, values, skills and attitudes for our students, staff and volunteers.
- Find out about traditional owners of the land where Lauriston is situated and publicly acknowledge this.

4. Eliminate racism and abuse

Taking specific action needed to keep aboriginal children safe from abuse and harm.

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Schools must address all forms of racism and consider attitudes and practices that are a barrier to providing a culturally safe environment and to address all forms of racism.

- Adopt measures in our school policies and procedures to ensure racism is identified, confronted and not tolerated.
- Address any instances of racism within the school environment with appropriate consequences.
- Actively support participation and inclusion in the school by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.
- Provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to identify trusted adults or friends they can speak with at the school.
- Use culturally appropriate ways to ask Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people if they feel safe such as through cultural activities or storytelling.
- Build the capacity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to speak with confidence about their opinions and also encourage them by active listening in our personal development programs.
- Ensure that staff and volunteers know the signs of harm and facilitate child friendly and culturally safe ways for children to raise their concerns.

5. Involvement and information to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families in the promotion of Child Safety and Wellbeing

- Build trusting relationships and mutual respect with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families through regular respectful engagement.
- Consult with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families when the school is developing policies and procedures regarding Child Safety, Wellbeing, and cultural safety.
- Respond to feedback and input from our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and resolve to make any appropriate changes to Child Safety and Wellbeing policies and procedures.