



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.

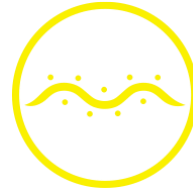
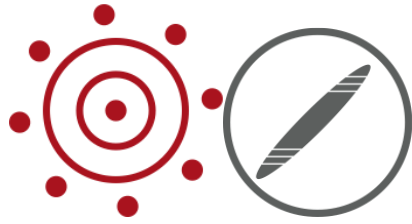
Covenants emphasize the ethos and faith belief of Catholic schools and the Social Justice response they are committed to make as part of their Christian identity. Schools' expressed commitment is reflected in practical goals and actions which they strive to achieve in the year ahead. School covenants 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?)

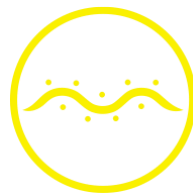
Our Covenant

(Describe how you developed your Reconciliation Covenant, who sits on your Reconciliation Covenant working group and any other relevant information ie. Our school community was presented with ideas for Reconciliation in our local community by the Sandhurst Aboriginal Team, who were and are involved in the continuing development of our Covenant.



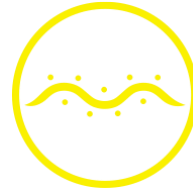
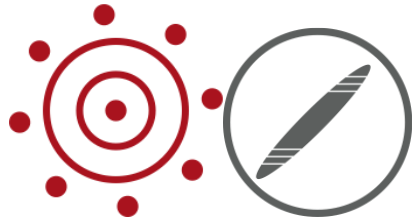
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Spirituality			
Focus Area: Learn, Teach, Share, Grow towards understanding Aboriginal Spirituality (holistic)			
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities/Resources
<p>Through Prayer and knowledge gain/engage a deeper awareness of justice issues.</p> <p>Use Aboriginal prayers and songs for class and assembly prayer.</p> <p>Explore the significance of spirituality in Aboriginal art.</p> <p>Create an Australian identity during the time of Advent.</p> <p>Listen to Aboriginal Stories</p>	<p>Indigenous Network Representative - Eliza McNamara</p> <p>Staff</p>	<p>2024 - ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate Aboriginal prayers and symbols in liturgy by using the message stick during the Liturgy of the Word at school masses. • Learn and use the Aboriginal Our Father for assemblies each term, so that it may be used by the community within classrooms. • Introduce Richard Campbell's Stations of the Cross to the St Joseph's community. • 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. • Write an Aboriginal prayer



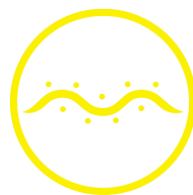
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Cultural Recognition & Awareness			
Focus Area: Recognise Cultural Perspectives, Demonstrate Awareness			
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities / Resources
<p>Embrace Aboriginal stories and culture within school ceremonies.</p> <p>Publicly 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>Principal</p> <p>Indigenous Network Representative - Eliza McNamara</p> <p>Staff</p>	<p>2024 - ongoing</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 in curriculum through lines. ● Continue to Acknowledge Country on School website and school's printed material. ● Include the Acknowledgement of Country in the school newsletter. ● 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. ● 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. ● Aboriginal book display in the library ● Artwork to be purchased and/or created to be displayed around the school



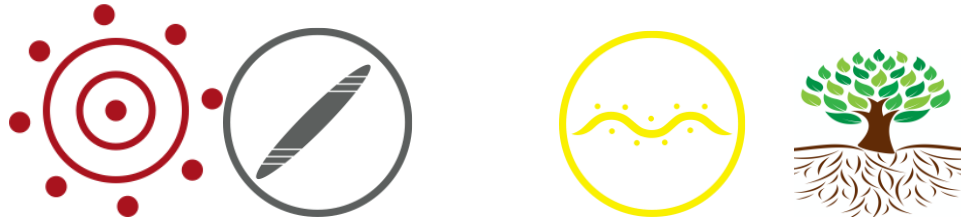
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Practical Reconciliation & Justice			
Focus Area: Walk the Journey together, Put Learnings into Practice			
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Measurable Target
<p>Take Practical Measures toward Reconciliation and Justice</p> <p>Acknowledge and teach the 'true' history of Australia</p> <p>Empower the FIRE Carrier leaders to share the learning and message within the school</p>	<p>Indigenous Network Representative - Eliza McNamara</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Indigenous Network Representative - Eliza McNamara CES support</p>	<p>2024 - ongoing</p>	<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 ● Stations set up during Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week to run different activities for students and staff



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Ecological Stewardship.			
Focus Area: Ecological renewal and sustainability depend upon spiritual awareness and an attitude of responsibility – Caring for country.			
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Measurable 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 Sustainability leaders and FIRE Carriers</p> <p>Engage in Sandhurst switches off. Celebrate Earth Hour. Have a nude food policy at school and home!</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</p>	<p>Indigenous Network Representative - Eliza McNamara</p> <p>Senior Teachers</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Senior Teachers</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Assembly</p> <p>Newsletter</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teach and learn the Indigenous way of living. ● Sustain learning and teaching practices ● Make links to Victorian curriculum. ● Sign up to Earth Care. ● Sustainability 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 Sustainability 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 as a learning space to tell this story.



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what that means for us today regarding Ecological Stewardship.			
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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.

Our School commits to completing or putting steps in place to complete all Actions through Measureable Targets outlined above by the dates set out in the timeline above. A review at the end of school year will be conducted and the plan will be updated and passed to the following year's FIRE Carrier.