



Victorian Child Safety Standards- Standard 1

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

Acknowledging and Celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives at Clairvaux

At Clairvaux, we are committed to recognising and respectfully including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives as part of our whole-school culture and everyday learning.

We are proud to have Indigenous families as part of our school community. Their presence and contributions help us build deeper understanding and respect for the rich histories, cultures and knowledge of Australia's First Nations peoples.

A whole-school Acknowledgement of Country is taught to all Prep students in their first term and becomes a regular part of their school life. Our students lead this Acknowledgement proudly at each school assembly, reminding us all of the importance of Country, culture and respect.

In 2024 and 2025, we have held Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremonies, led by Aunty Kristi Watts and Uncle David Tournier from the Wauthaurong community. As a school we always Acknowledge important events for our First Nations people including Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week.

A special part of our school is the Message Stick used at school Mass, symbolising connection and story. We also take pride in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artworks around our school. We are welcomed into our school with a Cross displaying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art work and story by Mutti Mutti Wemba Elder, Aunty Vicki Clarke from the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry. Our School Hall has a large and Culturally significant mural that is a welcoming to our school and a clear presentation of our commitment to improving our understanding and showing our respect. This was painted by the grandmother of one of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, Arremte Elder, Aunty Merryn Apma. Aunty Merryn also created another art work for our school and a joint canvas with the First Nation students enrolled at that time. We also have artworks created by Wadawurrang man Billy Jay (BJ) O'Toole, from Papul Art, including painted bollards created with our First Nations Students representing the land, sky, and water. We also purchased the licence of two of BJ's art works to create two beautiful murals that now brighten our school hallways and the Year 2/3 open space. This space has been name Bunjil's Nest after one of the 'birds' in this artwork.

All non indigenous Australians are continually learning and developing our understanding from our First Nations peoples. We are constantly seeking to improve how we can better respect and represent the beliefs, connections to land and wisdom of so many years on the land we all call home. We are always striving to improve how we can make our recognition and focus to be authentic and purposeful by consulting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services for advice and guidance. In line with the Victorian Curriculum, we incorporate the Intercultural Capability and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures cross-curriculum priority in authentic, age-appropriate ways. We cover particular focus units across the school as well as trying to weave this learning where appropriate and authentic into our everyday teaching on top of our whole school focus days. We are committed to doing this work in a way that is meaningful, respectful and ongoing.

