



St Mary's Catholic School

“Growing through Christ”

Originally released: 2013

Reviewed: 2015

Due for Review: 2017

RECONCILIATION STRATEGY

Vision

St Mary's Catholic School is a community seeking to grow through Christ. The development of each individual is nurtured through the integration of faith, life and culture. We acknowledge the Noongar people's prior custodianship of this region, value the heritage and culture of the Noongar people and provide justice and equity for all.

Rationale

For the vision to be sustained, the process of reconciliation (to know why, to understand why and to act to redress the pain and disadvantage of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community) must become integral to the workings of our Catholic school.

Principles of Reconciliation

In consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents the following principles and practices were decided as the foundation of all conduct and activities

- Christ as our centre
- Trust
- Openness
- Integrity
- Truth
- Justice
- Open communication
- Respect

These principles and practices are to be reflected –

- In practices which do not discriminate against others on the basis of race, ethnicity, culture, language or religion.
- In practices which value diversity and are free of racism.
- In mechanisms for reporting and acting on negative cases of the principles and practices.

Actions

St Mary's Catholic School will carry out the following actions to ensure this strategy is met –

- Implement the Aboriginal Studies across the curriculum including:
 - The provision of curriculum resources to teachers and students
 - The professional development of all staff e.g. racism issues, crosscultural

awareness and professional talks on Aboriginal Study

Curriculum programmes.

- The fostering of community connections, e.g. inviting community elders to school gatherings

- Acknowledging dates of significance to the Aboriginal and Torres

Strait Islander community

- Celebrating NAIDOC Week
- Ensure liturgies recognise the symbols and spirituality of Aboriginal Australia
- Support the invitation of Aboriginal guest speakers and dance groups from the local community into classrooms
- Develop discrete units of work on Aboriginal issues for each year level ensuring that traditional and contemporary issues are dealt with. Some of these units of work are –
 - Aboriginal family structures
 - Diversity amongst Aboriginal groups
 - Land rights
 - Language
 - Pre-colonial lifestyles
 - Aboriginal heroes
 - Aboriginal agencies, e.g. ATSIC
 - Racism - the impact on all
- Appoint an Aboriginal Studies Co-ordinator to strengthen skills and knowledge of teachers
- Provide a register of Aboriginal Studies resources on Aboriginal literature, Aboriginal history and Aboriginal culture
- Commemorate “The Journey of Healing”
- Encourage diversity in the participation of students on representative bodies.
- Commemorate Reconciliation Week with activities of reconciliation
- Evaluate teaching materials and assessment practices to ensure inclusivity and balanced viewpoint.

Timetable

- This strategy will be reviewed bi-annually
- Notify and implement dates of particular importance throughout the year

Personnel Involved in this Strategy

- School Aboriginal Studies Co-ordinator
- School Principal
- CEO Regional Co-ordinator