



**NAGLE**  
CATHOLIC  
COLLEGE  
EST 1994

## **POLICY STATEMENT ABORIGINAL EDUCATION**

**Updated: 2020  
Due for review: 2024**

### **Rationale**

Catholic school communities have a responsibility to create an understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal people, their histories, cultures and spirituality. Catholic schools, in conjunction with their parents/guardians, families and communities, shall play an important role in the Christian formation of their students to develop as active and contributing members of Australian society. *'Catholic schools can serve as models for all within Western Australia who seek to create genuine communities. Such communities are always founded upon shared commitment to the common good'* (Mandate, 7).

Nagle Catholic College recognises Aboriginal people as the original inhabitants of Australia, and embraces the richness and diversity that exists both within and across Australia's many Aboriginal nations. As such, the College is committed to maximising the learning opportunities for all Aboriginal people.

The Nagle Catholic College community has a responsibility to improve the educational outcomes of Aboriginal students, while acknowledging, respecting and reflecting Aboriginal peoples' histories and cultures, including their unique values, languages and spirituality, for the betterment of all students.

This policy should be utilised in conjunction with the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (CECWA) Justice Education Policy, Student Enrolment Policy and Curriculum policy.

### **Definitions**

*Aboriginal* refers to the original inhabitants of Australia and respectfully includes Torres Strait Islander people.

The term *parents* is not limited to the western nuclear family definition, but rather reflects complex and dynamic Aboriginal kinship systems regulated by social bonds, physical and emotional relationship to country, and connections to ancestral spirits.

The term *histories and cultures* is inclusive of the unique values, languages and spirituality of Aboriginal peoples.

The term *Aboriginal Education* refers to the deep knowledge that can be learned from Aboriginal histories and cultures. Aboriginal Education applies to all areas within the school including: teaching and learning, employment, career pathways and community partnerships.

The term *Aboriginal Education Plan* refers to a formalised, whole-school plan to address all facets of Aboriginal Education.



The term *Aboriginal Nation* refers to Aboriginal society as one that is diverse, complex and sophisticated. Australia is made up of many Aboriginal Nations.

### Principles

- Aboriginal people have rich histories and cultures that may be shared with all Australians
- The College is committed to increasing knowledge and understanding of the histories, cultures, and experiences of Aboriginal peoples
- The College recognises that parents/guardians are the first educators of their children
- The College is committed to collaborative decision making and capacity building with Aboriginal people
- Aboriginal students have the right to an equitable education that both enables the achievement of educational outcomes and maintains their cultural identity
- The College is committed to reconciliation which promotes the principles of truth, justice, equity and inclusivity

### Procedures

- The College in consultation with parents/guardians, families and the College community shall develop an Aboriginal Education Plan which is consistent with guidelines provided by national and state agreements
- The College shall integrate Aboriginal Education across all areas of curriculum through the cross curriculum priority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, as mandated by the Western Australian Curriculum. This cross curriculum priority provides the opportunity to act as exemplars and work in collaboration with Aboriginal people to develop all students as active and contributing members of Australian society
- The College shall actively encourage and support Aboriginal people to be represented appropriately on school decision making committees
- The College shall actively encourage and support Aboriginal people to undertake training and further education
- The College shall encourage the employment and promotion of eligible, qualified Aboriginal people to leadership roles
- The College shall be fully involved in a process of reconciliation through the recognition, acceptance and celebration of Aboriginal cultural traditions and values

### References

- Bishops of Western Australia 2009, *Mandate of the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia: 2009-2015*
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy, 2015
- University of New South Wales, Indigenous Terminology, 2016  
<https://teaching.unsw.edu.au/indigenous-terminology>
- The State of Reconciliation in Australia, 2016
- Australia Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)
- School Curriculum and Standards Authority, Government of Western Australia, 2014



### Related Documents

- CECWA Curriculum policy
- CECWA Justice Education policy
- CECWA School Enrolment policy