

**Casterton Secondary College Action Plan**

**Aboriginal Learning, Wellbeing and Safety**

*Note: Throughout this document the term Koorie is used to refer to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

Casterton Secondary College embraces the vision of the [Marrung Aboriginal Education Plan](https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/marrung.aspx) and celebrates the culture, knowledge and experiences of First Nations Peoples. We are committed to creating and maintaining a school environment that empowers Koorie students to feel valued, respected and culturally strong.

Our school has a number of measures in place to ensure our community acknowledges and appreciates the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. These measures are outlined below.

At Casterton Secondary College we are committed to establishing an inclusive and culturally safe school where the strengths of Aboriginal culture, values and practices are respected.

We think about how every student can have a positive experience in a safe environment. For Aboriginal students, we recognise the link between Aboriginal culture, identity and safety and actively create opportunities for Aboriginal students and the Aboriginal community to have a voice and presence in our school planning, policies, and activities.

We have developed the following strategies to promote cultural safety in our school community:

* Aboriginal and Torres Torres Strait Islander Flags are displayed in the school foyer and electronic sign.
* Acknowledgement of Country displayed at school entrance and on school website.
* Students are referred to Koorie Education Support Officers (KESO) for support as required.
* Students are referred to Winda – Mara for support as required.
* Students are encouraged and supported in their applications, to apply for scholarships targeted for aboriginal students.

**Family and community perspectives and feedback**

We actively seek participation and feedback from Koorie students, families and Community by:

* acknowledging the existing knowledge of Koorie students and their families and seeking their feedback on decisions that affect them, and on how well we are meeting their needs, through initial enrolment meetings, Student Support Groups, during the development of Individual Education Plans when deemed necessary.
* participating in parent focus groups in School Reviews.
* working with our regional Koorie Engagement Support Officers (KESOs) an Winda-Mara Aboriginal Corporation, for advice on how we can create a culturally inclusive learning environment and to build our capacity to provide support for individual Koorie students attending our school

**Training and professional development of staff**

To ensure our staff are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to create and maintain a positive and inclusive school environment we:

* ensure staff participate in [Community Understanding and Safety Training (CUST)](https://www.vaeai.org.au/community-understanding-safety-training-online-information-session/) training
* provide tailored training and professional development **when necessary** to build knowledge for specific staff based on any emerging or current areas of need
* ensure training and professional development equips teaching staff to deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives within the classroom curriculum
* support teachers to work in their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to map and develop teaching and learning activities within the Victorian Curriculum priorities to enable staff to build their confidence with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander content and to recognise opportunities to draw upon Aboriginal pedagogies and practices within their classrooms
* ensure training and professional development equips staff with an understanding and appreciation of the strengths of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and its importance to the wellbeing and safety of Koorie children and students.

**Curriculum and learning**

Casterton Secondary College supports the development of high expectations and individualised learning for Koorie students and creates a learning environment for all students that acknowledges, respects and values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and identities. This includes:

* implementing the Department of Education and Training’s [Koorie Education Policy](https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/koorie-education/policy)
* ensuring that Koorie students have individual education plans, when deemed appropriate, developed in partnership with students, families, and KESOs.
* referral to the Navigator program as appropriate.

**Built and digital environment**

* displaying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags in the school foyer.

## **POLICY Review and approval**

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| Policy last reviewed | Term 2, 2022 |
| Consultation | Endorsed by School Council 08/08/2022 |
| Approved by | Principal  |
| Next scheduled review date | 2024 |