



Francis Jordan Catholic School

Peterborough Drive, Currambine WA 6028
www.fjcs.wa.edu.au

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION POLICY (DRAFT)

Rationale

Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of Australia. Francis Jordan Catholic School embraces the richness and diversity which exists within the Aboriginal nations of Australia and is committed to maximising the learning opportunities for all students, particularly those of Aboriginal descent.

Francis Jordan Catholic School understands the responsibility to create an understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal people - their histories, cultures and spirituality. Our School will play an integral role in the formation of students to develop as active and contributing members of Australian society.

Bishops Mandate Letter - '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' (paragraph 6).

Definitions

1. The term 'Aboriginal' refers to the original inhabitants of Australia and includes the Torres Strait Islander people.
2. The term 'Aboriginal Education' applies to all areas within the school including learning and teaching, reconciliation, employment, career pathways and community partnerships.

3. The term 'Aboriginal Education Plan' refers to the school developing a formalised approach through the development of a strategic action plan to address Aboriginal Education in the school.
4. 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

1. Francis Jordan Catholic School is committed to ensure that all students understand that Aboriginal people have a rich history, culture and spirituality that can be shared with all Australians.
2. Francis Jordan Catholic School is committed to increasing the knowledge and understanding of the histories, cultures and experience of Aboriginal people as the first peoples of Australia.
3. Francis Jordan Catholic School is committed to collaborative decision making and capacity building with Aboriginal people, parents, caregivers, families and communities.
4. Aboriginal students at Francis Jordan Catholic School have the right to be provided with educational experiences comparable to all Australians whilst maintaining their cultural identity.
5. Francis Jordan Catholic School is committed to reconciliation which promotes the principles of inclusivity, equity, justice and consultation.
6. Francis Jordan Catholic School is committed to increasing employment and promotional opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Procedures

1. An Aboriginal Education Plan has been developed in the school and it is consistent with guidelines provided by national and state agreements.
2. Francis Jordan Catholic School integrates Aboriginal education across all areas of curriculum.
3. Ongoing professional learning in Aboriginal understandings is provided to all staff working at Francis Jordan Catholic School.
4. Francis Jordan Catholic School encourages and supports Aboriginal people to be represented appropriately on school decision-making committees as appropriate.
5. Francis Jordan Catholic School employs and promotes eligible, qualified Aboriginal people to leadership roles as appropriate.
6. Francis Jordan Catholic School is fully involved in the reconciliation process through the recognition, acceptance and celebration of Aboriginal cultural traditions.

Reviewed: 2017

Due for Review: 2020

Francis Jordan Catholic School
Aboriginal Education Plan
2017 - 2019

The Church of Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until the Aboriginal people of Australia have made their contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others. (*Pope John Paul II 1986*)

There is a real need to reconcile with Aboriginal people. Reconciliation is a very important process that recognises cultural traditions and values. It promotes the principals of inclusion, equity and justice. Therefore, as members of the community, Aboriginal people have the right to expect all followers of Jesus Christ, as witnesses to the truth of the Gospel, to support them in their legitimate efforts towards development as a people seeking equality of dignity and opportunity in Australia. (*Pope John Paul II 1986*)

LEARNING CONCEPTS	
ACTION / STRATEGY	RESOURCES REQUIRED
<p><u>YEAR 1</u></p> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recognise words in Aboriginal language • use known words in Aboriginal languages to interact with other students • recognise and copy symbols from Aboriginal languages <p><u>YEAR 2</u></p> <p>Students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify key words and phrases in written Aboriginal languages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the wide range of resources, available from Library. • Website - http://www.det.wa.edu.au/aboriginal-education/apac/detcms/aboriginal-education/apac/lesson-plans/early-childhood.en?cat-id=9192342

- identify ways in which meaning is conveyed by the symbols of Aboriginal languages

YEAR 3

Students will:

- demonstrate understanding of significant cultural practices in Aboriginal communities.
- recognise the link between culture and a sense of identity

YEAR 4

Students will:

- recognise connections between Aboriginal culture, language, land and a sense of identity.

- Geckos website – accessed through CEO website:
<http://geckos.ceo.wa.edu.au/primary/identity/Pages/language.aspx>

CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

2017 - Incursion

Invitations to Aboriginal guest speakers to share their culture and history of Wanneroo area.

