



## 2018 School - Community Partnerships Agreement

### **Engagement Plan**

St Marys School, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students and their parents/caregivers/families agree to work together so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students have the best start in life by fully developing the talents and abilities of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students so that they achieve their best at school.

A quote from the bible in the book of John 10:10 is relevant with the catholic ethos of our School, ***“I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness”***.

All parties involved in the Partnership want to provide students with a quality education, to be proud of their identity and culture and to be supported at school and at home.

Our first goals are that students will have the foundations in Numeracy and Standard Australian English for reading and writing, to successfully complete Year 12 and to gain employment or go on to further education.

### **Aboriginal Culture**

Other goals that are significant and relevant to our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are to capture their Aboriginal Culture, Spirituality and Gumbaynggirr language. Students have the opportunity to learn their almost-lost Gumbaynggirr language and to perform for visitors to our School with pride and a strong sense of identity. We want students to engage in School-based Cultural activities that are done outside NAIDOC Week, throughout the year. We want the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families to attend the Koori Family Faith Retreat each year at Yarrawarra Cultural Centre to experience Aboriginal Spirituality and Christian Faith.

### **Gumbaynggirr Language**

The teaching in Schools of Gumbaynggirr language, and other languages that belong to a Nation, is a most significant component of learning for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. The Gumbaynggirr language has been revived, now we have the opportunity to keep it alive for this generation and future generations to come. It identifies who they are and where they belong, it connects them to country/nation, and also connects to all other aspects of Aboriginal Culture, for example:

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Belief and Spirituality   | Ceremony and Rituals  |
| Dreaming Creation Stories | Songs/Art/Music/Dance |



and most importantly, Welcome to Country.

**School staff members will:**

- develop understandings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, languages, traditions and ways of learning;
- respect and value students and acknowledge their cultural background;
- have high expectations of students and their abilities to learn and succeed;
- ensure that what students learn and how they learn is relevant to their lives and aspirations
- strive to meet students' learning needs and use up-to-date resources, learning aids and equipment;
- develop individualised learning plans for students where appropriate;
- protect, value and care for students while they are at school, creating a school that is free from discrimination, violence and harassment;
- inform parents/caregivers/families of their children's attendance and progress at school and show them examples of their children's work;
- investigate any concerns that students and parents/caregivers/families raise with them;
- welcome parents/caregivers/families to the school so they can see where their children learn and share local knowledge with the school;
- involve parents/caregivers/families in choosing the school principal and teaching staff;
- work with parents/caregivers/families on school policy and planning
- be flexible with school organisation and resources; and
- encourage and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who want to work at the school or wish to become teachers or education workers.

**Parents/caregivers/families will:**

- expect school staff to provide quality teaching for their children;
- make sure their children attend school and do their homework;
- have high expectations of their children's abilities to learn and succeed;
- support their children's learning (for example, by reading to them or asking about their school work);
- encourage their children's interest in learning and let them know about the importance of education;
- meet with school staff to discuss their children's progress at school;
- praise their children's achievements and success;
- assist with the selection of the school principal and teaching staff;
- take part in school policy and planning;
- help school staff to understand local Indigenous history and cultures; and
- volunteer to help around the school where possible.



**Students will:**

- expect school staff to provide quality teaching that meets their needs and aspirations;
- attend school and do their best at their school work;
- do their homework;
- ask their teachers questions when they don't understand something (either in class or after class);
- ask teachers, parent/caregivers for help if they feel they need more support;
- know that parents/caregivers and teachers all want to help them to be their best and that going to school is one way to achieve this;
- respect and work with other students, the school and its staff, parents/caregivers and community members; and
- make suggestions about ways to improve their school.

**Bowraville Local Aboriginal Land Council, Miimi Mothers, Community Health Department, Darrimba Maarra Health Clinic, Durri Aboriginal Medical Centre, Muurrbay Aboriginal Language and Cultural Centre, Bowraville Community PreSchool, Family Day Care, Bowraville Central School, Nambucca Valley Domestic Violence Group, Nambucca Valley Koori Interagency Network, St Patrick's Primary School, Ngambaga Bindaray Girrwa Community Services (Elders), Interrelate, Ngurrala Aboriginal Corporation:**

- support students and their parent/caregivers by encouraging students to attend school;
- join in celebrations of student success;
- respect the school, its vision and ethos; and
- provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness training to school staff when required.
- Provide health and wellbeing advice to support students
- Engage with school to help close the gap in Indigenous health issues.

All Parties who have involvement in the Community Engagement Plan agree that this document will remain in place if we have a new Principal and that we will regularly reaffirm our commitment to it and renegotiate it when our needs and circumstances change.

