PURPOSE

The aim of this document is to provide guidelines for the school community to:

- promote educational achievements for Aboriginal students;
- educate all students about Aboriginal Australia;
- ensure programs include the histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

RATIONALE

The focus of this policy is the delivery of quality teaching and learning programs at Gundaroo Public School for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students and the development of strategic initiatives to facilitate the processes.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies give students opportunities to learn about the histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The studies are of the peoples’ values, beliefs, languages, lifestyles and roles before European arrival, after European arrival and up to the present day.

KEY POLICY STATEMENTS

An across-curriculum approach to the teaching of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander studies will be adopted to:

- Cater for the learning needs of all students
- Promote equitable outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and all other students to develop accurate and culturally inclusive views of Australia’s history
- Provide insights into the sophistication and complexity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kinship and social structures
- Promote respect for the integrity of all people
- Incorporate activities aimed at developing a greater understanding of spiritual, political, economic and environment issues
- Promote the diversity of cultures within Aboriginal societies and Torres Strait Islander societies

PRINCIPAL’S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Principal will

- support and supervise the class teachers in planning, implementing and assessing an across-curriculum approach to the teaching and learning of Aboriginal studies
- promote, recognise and celebrate significant Aboriginal dates e.g. NAIDOC week
- recognise the talents and achievements of Aboriginal staff, students, parents and community members
• encourage the involvement of the Aboriginal community in the school governance and the teaching and learning programs
• promote the process of reconciliation and anti-racism in the school
• implement a program of training and development for staff about Aboriginal culture and perspectives in the school curriculum

**TEACHERS’ RESPONSIBILITIES**

Teachers will
• encourage respect for and understanding of Aboriginal people and their cultures by developing across-curriculum teaching and learning programs that:
  ▪ consider ways in which racism can be identified and addressed
  ▪ use appropriate terminology
  ▪ handle sensitive issues appropriately
  ▪ include accurate information
  ▪ acknowledge that Aboriginal cultures encompass a wide variety of lifestyles
  ▪ investigate the ways in which Aboriginal people have adapted to changing environments and the influence of other cultural groups
  ▪ emphasise the learning skills important to the Aboriginal people e.g. listening, observing, practising, actively participating, cooperating, interacting and sharing
  ▪ recognise the importance of the Dreaming for Aboriginal people and Legends of Torres Strait Islander people in contemporary Australia
  ▪ emphasise oral tradition
• develop teaching and learning programs to reflect the diverse needs of Aboriginal students

**STUDENTS’ RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students will participate in the Aboriginal studies programs

**PARENTS’ RESPONSIBILITIES**

Parents will
• encourage respect for and understanding of Aboriginal people and their cultures
• encourage participation in school activities celebrating Aboriginal culture