



Topic:	Aboriginal Education
Policy No:	B-7
Policy Area:	Education
Date For Review:	2018

1. Rationale

Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of Australia. Mercy College embraces the richness and diversity which exists within the Aboriginal nations of Australia. Mercy College is committed to maximising the learning opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Mercy College has a responsibility to create an understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal people, their histories, cultures and spirituality. Mercy College will play an important role in the 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 paragraph 6.1).

2. Definitions

The term Aboriginal refers to the original inhabitants of Australia and includes Torres Strait Islander people.

The term Aboriginal education applies to all areas within the school including learning and teaching, reconciliation, employment, career pathways and community partnerships.

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

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

3. Scope

This policy applies to Mercy College.

4. Principles

4.1 Aboriginal people have a rich history, culture and spirituality that can be shared with all Australians.

4.2 Mercy College is committed to increasing knowledge and understanding of the histories, culture and experience of Aboriginal people as the first peoples of Australia.

4.3 Mercy College recognises that parents/caregivers are the first educators of their children.

- 4.4 Mercy College is committed to collaborative decision making and capacity building with Aboriginal people, parents, caregivers, families and communities.
- 4.5 The students at Mercy College have the right to be provided with educational experiences comparable to all Australians whilst maintaining their cultural identity.
- 4.6 Mercy College is committed to reconciliation which promotes the principles of inclusivity, equity, justice and consultation.
- 4.7 Mercy College is committed to increasing employment and promotional opportunities for Aboriginal people.

5. Procedures

- 5.1 Mercy College, in consultation with their school community shall develop an Aboriginal Education Plan which is consistent with guidelines provided by national and state agreements.
- 5.2 Mercy College shall integrate Aboriginal education across all areas of curriculum.
- 5.3 Aboriginal language and cultural education programmes for use in schools shall be developed in collaboration with the Aboriginal community which are consistent with relevant documents developed by Catholic Education Aboriginal committee (CEAC).
- 5.4 Ongoing professional learning in Aboriginal understandings shall be provided to all staff working at Mercy College. Wherever possible, the local Aboriginal community shall be invited to be involved in the delivery of this professional learning.
- 5.5 Mercy College shall actively encourage and support Aboriginal people to be represented appropriately on school decision making committees.
- 5.6 Mercy College shall actively encourage and support Aboriginal people to undertake training and further education.
- 5.7 Mercy College shall encourage the employment and promotion of eligible, qualified Aboriginal people to leadership roles.
- 5.8 Mercy College shall be fully involved in the reconciliation process through the recognition, acceptance and celebration of aboriginal cultural traditions and values.

6. References

'Bishops Mandate for Catholic Education commission of Western Australia 2009 – 2015

7. Related Documents

Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy 2-D5 'Student Enrolment'
Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy 2-B7 'Justice Education'
Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia Policy 2-B2 'Curriculum'

8. Review History

Year of Review	Reviewed By	Amendments/Review
2015	Julie Hornby	Originally released

9. Next Review

Year	Mercy College Standing Committee Responsible
2018	Julie Hornby