



## MAGDALENE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

*"Because I have seen the Lord"*

# Aboriginal Education Policy

## Rationale

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Magdalene Catholic High School values the worth of each individual and promotes respect for the integrity of all people. Students are encouraged to understand and appreciate the richness of Aboriginal history, spirituality and culture. We recognise and celebrate the diverse cultures and backgrounds of students. Magdalene Catholic High School, as a systemic school of the Diocese of Wollongong, supports the Diocesan Vision Statement and policy for Aboriginal Education. This policy states:

"Through the Gospel we support and address the educational, cultural and spiritual needs of all members of our community. All families who seek enrolment in our Catholic Schools are assured that the heritage of indigenous people shall be given the utmost respect and consideration. An understanding of Aboriginal Australia – history, culture and contemporary issues – will allow a balanced appreciation of what Australian society should be. The Catholic Diocese of Wollongong is committed to achieving equity for Aboriginal students and to the education of all students about Indigenous Australia in the spirit of reconciliation."

## Guidelines

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Staff at Magdalene Catholic High School, will implement the Diocesan Aboriginal Policy as we strive to:

1. Promote a greater understanding, appreciation and celebration of traditional/contemporary aboriginal culture, language, history and identity in our school.
2. Raise awareness and sensitivity amongst staff and students in order to promote equity in our school for the whole of our community, promoting practices that counter racism.
3. Ensure Aboriginal Perspectives are implemented in curriculum.
4. Ensure positive educational outcomes for Indigenous students in all KLA's by ensuring school programs address specific needs of aboriginal students.
5. Monitor literacy and numeracy skills of aboriginal students and provide intervention programs where necessary as part of the whole School Literacy and other special needs plans.
6. Seek to understand and value the religious and spiritual dimensions of the lives of aboriginal people and, where appropriate, incorporate this understanding into Religious Education programs, prayer and liturgy.
7. Link with the Diocesan Aboriginal Education Officer in order to access and further develop the networks with and for Indigenous students.
8. Consult with the local aboriginal community, observing protocol, in regard to curriculum development.
9. Encourage enrolment and active participation of aboriginal students by making the school more welcoming and accessible.
10. Encourage the involvement of aboriginal families and communities in our school life.
11. Provide an opportunity for professional development of teachers in relation to pastoral care and curriculum within the wider context of the Church's commitment to Social Justice and in particular to Aboriginal Education.
12. Maintain membership of the Diocesan Aboriginal Education Network.

## **Basis of Discretion**

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The Principal reserves the right at all times to review current practices and recommend changes that are appropriate and in the best interest of the school or individual students.

## **Supporting Documents**

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Diocese of Wollongong Aboriginal Education Policy

## **Evaluation**

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The policy will be reviewed in 2015.