

St. Philomena's Indigenous Education Policy

Rationale:

Due to the high Indigenous population of Moree and its surrounding areas this policy has been developed for St. Philomena's School. There is a need for all students to develop an appreciation of the cultural and spiritual values of Indigenous people.

Aims:

- 2.1 To foster an understanding that Indigenous people and their culture have value and contribute significantly to our national identity.
- 2.2 To recognize that the Indigenous people, staff and students, provide a special dimension to the life of St. Philomena's School.
- 2.3 To develop and implement programs through which Indigenous students will feel empowered to reach their full potential.
- 2.4 St. Philomena's will provide a safe and supportive environment for Indigenous students to learn, express and develop their own identity.
- 2.5 To expose students to Indigenous role models.

Implementation:

- 1 Provide each KLA with an Aboriginal perspective in all areas of the curriculum (K-10).
- 2 Indigenous and new staff will have access to Professional Development with an Indigenous focus.
- 3 The students will be involved in prayer and spiritual opportunity.
- 4 Culturally appropriate teaching strategies eg. "Count Me In Too" and assessment methods are implemented to cater for the preferred learning styles of Indigenous students.
- 5 St. Philomena's will give high priority to the provisions of individual and small group support programs in Literacy and Numeracy for Indigenous students eg. Aboriginal Homework Centre.
- 6 St. Philomena's will utilize the wealth of knowledge and expertise of Aboriginal members on staff and the local community and its various organizations.

- 7 Each teacher will be responsible to liaise with their Assistant Principal and the AEA in regards to issues involved with student welfare.
- 8 Each KLA will purchase special education resources to assist Indigenous students with their learning processes.
- 9 Once a year NAIDOC week will be celebrated in a range of cultural and social events.

Budget:

Finance comes from a cluster of Government agencies and the Armidale Catholic Diocese. ASSPA- Aboriginal Student Support Parents Awareness also provides funds to support Indigenous education at St. Philomena's.

Evaluation:

The policy is to be evaluated twice a year. This regular evaluation will examine the success of the policy and will indicate areas for improvement and alteration.

Recommendations:

* We have prayer ceremonies (yearly Mass) run by the Aboriginal community.

Last Review Oct 08 next review Oct 10