



Aboriginal Education and Training Policy

Issued: 2016
Updated: June 2016

Document Version Control

- a. Initial document
-

1. Policy Statement

Wiley Park is committed to increasing knowledge and understanding of the histories, cultures and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Wiley Park Public School is committed to collaborative decision making with Aboriginal Peoples, parents and carers, families and their communities.

Wiley Park Public School aims to provide a safe, caring and welcoming learning place where all Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islander students and staff are treated with respect. Staff, students, parents and members of the community share responsibility to ensure active support of the Aboriginal Education and Training Policy.

It is the goal of Wiley Park Public School that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students will match or better the outcomes of the broader student population.

2. Justification

The Department of Education and Communities acknowledges:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the First Peoples of Australia
- Aboriginal elders past and present, who provided the foundations upon which the Aboriginal Education and Training Policy is based
- The significant contributions made to the policy by the New South Wales Aboriginal Education Consultative Group Inc. Aboriginal parents and community members as well as staff in all sectors of the Department

3. Our beliefs

At Wiley Park Public School we believe in:

- Establishing, building and strengthening relationships with Aboriginal people and communities
- Proving, in partnerships with Aboriginal People and communities, education and training which promotes quality teaching, is engaging, and is culturally appropriate and relevant
- Promoting education and training as a lifelong pursuit; to ensure Aboriginal people are better equipped to secure meaningful and rewarding employment and to lead healthy, fulfilling and successful lives

4. Collaboration and consultation

At Wiley Park Public School, this policy has been developed by staff and communicated to the community through the P & C. It is our intention that this policy reflects the needs of students, their families and the school.

5. Aboriginal Education and Training Policy Management

This Aboriginal Education and Training Policy will be actively supported by the School and its Parent community by recognising respective responsibilities.

a. School Responsibilities

- Provide opportunities for all students develop a deep understanding of Aboriginal histories, cultures, languages and perspectives
- Develop a Personalised Learning Plan (PLP) for students who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, with significant input from the student, parent and teacher
- Celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of Indigenous students
- Encourage quality partnerships between local indigenous communities and the school community
- Set high expectations that incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives
- Promote culturally inclusive, responsive and personalized approaches to learning
- Acknowledge Indigenous land as relevant school events

b. Parent Responsibilities

- Attend the PLP meetings
- Ensure child attends school on a consistent basis
- Become an active member of the school community

c. Student Responsibilities

- Attend School
- Contribute and follow PLP
- Follow school rules

6. Supporting Legislation

This policy is written with reference to:

- National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) *Closing the gap* targets for early childhood education, school achievement and attainment
- Council of Australian Governments (COAG) priorities of school attendance and post-school transitions as included in the Education Council's *Terms of reference*
- State, territory and education sector plans
- Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians December 2008
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Policy 1989
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Action Plan 2010-2014 and the subsequent documents

7. Supporting Documents

This policy is written with reference to:

- *Closing the Gap*, (2015). Australian Indigenous health Info Net
<http://www.healthinonet.ecu.edu.au/closing-the-gap>
- *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Strategy*, (2015)
- *Turning Policy Into Action*, (2015). NSW Education and communities Aboriginal Education and Training Policy

8. Review

This policy and associated procedures are reviewed bi-annually.