

## F.I.R.E. Carrier Covenant est. 2022

### **Covenant**

We recognise the special place and culture of Aboriginal peoples within Australia. We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples have been the caretakers of this Land for more than 60,000 years. We respect their spiritual connection to Mother Earth through the Dreaming.

'An apology begins the healing process. Apology means understanding, a willingness to enter into the suffering. It implies a commitment to do more'. The late Sir Ronald Wilson, Chair of the National Inquiry into the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

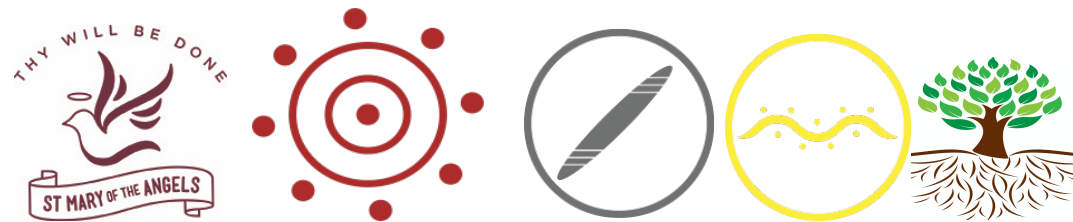
We understand that practical measures need to address the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal people in education, health, employment, and general opportunity.

"Reconciliation is an active pursuit – it's about getting on with what's needed and what we know to get the results we all want, and that's a mixture of measures that target the body, the mind and the spirit." Mick Dodson, Australian of the Year, National Press Club address, 17 February 2009  
True Reconciliation requires national and local solutions achieved through positive and purposeful partnerships not just for today but for tomorrow. We work for Reconciliation, in partnership with those who believe that there can be an alternative to the present order.

Covenants emphasize the ethos and faith belief of Catholic schools and the Social Justice response they are committed to make as part of their Christian identity. Schools' expressed commitment is reflected in practical goals and actions which they strive to achieve in the year ahead. School covenants express in ways, specific to each school, recognition of the special contribution Aboriginal peoples and their cultures make to Australian society, their relationship and connection to the land, their present position of disadvantage and social exclusion. They declare the school and school community's commitment to stand in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples to achieve true reconciliation and acknowledgement, by all Australians, of their rightful position within Australian society. (*firecarriers Sandhurst.pdf*)

### **Our School**

(What do we mean by Reconciliation? What responsibility do we have as individuals as a group? Why is Reconciliation important in our School?)  
At St Mary of the Angels our vision for reconciliation is to be a place of learning and teaching that respects Aboriginal protocols, history and culture. We will have strong and mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal communities. These relationships will provide for the sharing of knowledge and ideas, and the opportunity to listen and learn from Aboriginal Australians about the past, their current circumstances, and their vision for the future. We will be a place where Aboriginal culture is respected and celebrated.



## F.I.R.E. Carrier Covenant est. 2022

### Our Covenant

Our school has a proud history of working closely with Aboriginal communities both local and interstate to implement meaningful and respectful reconciliation programs into our school. We are continually liaising with the Sandhurst Aboriginal team who have supported us with ideas for Reconciliation in our local community and who are involved in the continuing development of our Covenant.

To support this our Covenant has been developed by staff at the College including The Aboriginal Education Leader, The Principle, The Deputy Principle Catholic Identity, The Immersion Leader, The Social Justice Leader and The Sustainability Leader. Together we will continue to work closely with students to include their contribution to this working document.

### CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

#### Culturally safe environments

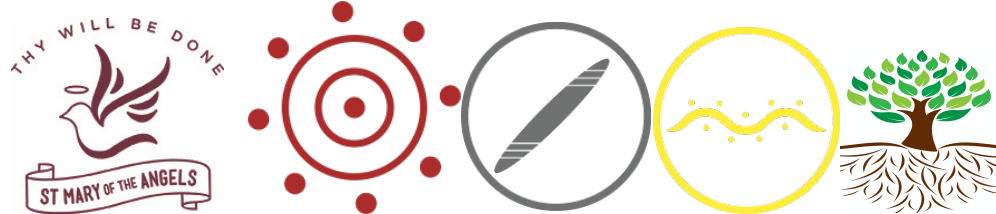
**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Cultural Safety is defined as an environment that is safe for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders, where there is no assault, challenge or denial of their identity and experience. (Williams 2008)**

St Mary of the Angles Secondary College takes account of and makes reasonable efforts to accommodate for the diversity of all children in implementing the Child Safe Standards relating to following standard.

**5.1 Schools must establish culturally safe environments in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children, young people and students are respected and valued**

#### Actions

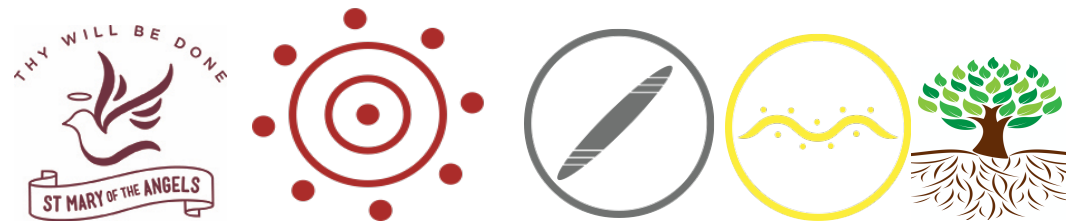
1. In endorsing and documenting the following activities contained within this FIRE Carrier covenant, St Marys commits to completing or putting steps in place to complete all actions through measurable targets outlined by the dates set out in the timeline included.
2. This FIRE Carrier covenant will be made accessible on the school's website to ensure adherence to the child safe standard referred to in the document.
3. A review at the end of school year will be conducted and the plan will be updated and passed to the following year's FIRE Carrier Coordinator.



## F.I.R.E. Carrier Covenant est. 2022

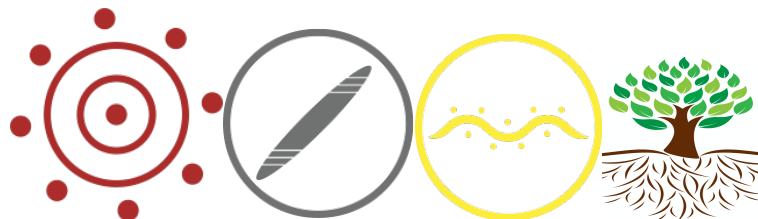
### Our Short Term and Long-Term Targets

6 Months	12 Months	2 Years
<p>To work on our new year 8/9 leaning spaces to include Aboriginal perspectives. To provide support and programs for Aboriginal students.</p>	<p>To continue to work closely with our students and staff to include new perspectives and programs to the school. To update our Covenant.</p>	<p>To include a yearly PD for staff</p>



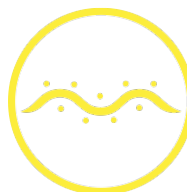
## F.I.R.E. Carrier Covenant est. 2022

<b>Spirituality</b>			
<b>Focus Area: Learn, Teach, Share, grow towards understanding Aboriginal Spirituality (holistic)</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Suggested Activities/Resources</b>
Welcome or Acknowledgment of country are implemented at College gathering and ceremonies.	All Staff	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Work with Elders and Aboriginal people locally to ensure protocols and knowledge are accurate</li> </ul>
Engage, collaborate and consult with Aboriginal people to enrich and enhance, spiritual experiences for staff, student and community.	All staff	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Work with colleagues within the Aboriginal Network and CES staff</li> <li>➤ Work with Elders and Aboriginal people locally to ensure protocols and knowledge are accurate</li> <li>➤ Encourage students that identify as Indigenous to be proud and celebrate their culture.</li> </ul>
Honour the Aboriginal significant days through prayer	DP Catholic Identity Aboriginal Education Leader	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide opportunities for all our school community to participate in retreat and immersion opportunities to significant Aboriginal Sites i.e., Lake Mungo, Grampians, Falls Creek, Camp Jungia and interstate communities.</li> </ul>
Perform the Aboriginal rituals in Mass and prayer.	DP Catholic Identity Aboriginal Education Leader	Reconciliation Week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Use the prayer and liturgy materials provided by CEO Staff for Staff Meetings and PDs prepared during Aboriginal significant days</li> <li>➤ Lead assist and take part in the preparation and for National Reconciliation Mass each year.</li> <li>➤ Use the message stick during reading of the Word at assemblies, liturgies and Masses</li> </ul>



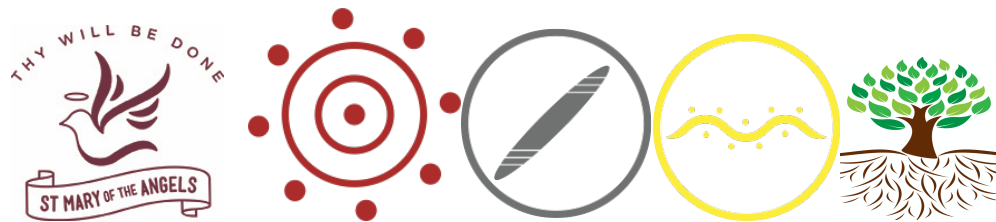
## F.I.R.E. Carrier Covenant est. 2022

<b>Cultural Recognition &amp; Awareness</b>			
<b>Focus Area: Recognise Cultural Perspectives, Demonstrate Awareness</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Suggested Activities / Resources</b>
Embrace Aboriginal stories and culture within school ceremonies.	All staff	All year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Acknowledge Country at College assemblies, staff meetings and all public events.</li> <li>➤ Invite Elders to Welcome visitors to Country at significant events where appropriate.</li> <li>➤ Localise Acknowledgment of Country as much as possible.</li> <li>➤ Work with staff to assist them to Incorporate Aboriginal perspectives in curriculum.</li> <li>➤ Share knowledge of culture at staff meetings and learning days.</li> <li>➤ Acknowledge Country on our school's website, email messages and printed material</li> <li>➤ Appoint an Aboriginal Education Leader to implement all Reconciliation programs including the FIRE CARRIER PROGRAM.</li> <li>➤ Educate the school community of the Aboriginal story of the land and people on which Sr Marys is situated.</li> <li>➤ Tell the story of the local landscape and how it relates to our school</li> </ul>
Publicly display our schools respect for Aboriginal people.	All staff	All year	
Engage in professional development and cross-cultural opportunities to better cater for the needs of Aboriginal students in our schools.	Aboriginal Education Leader	All year	



## F.I.R.E. Carrier Covenant est. 2022

<b>Practical Reconciliation &amp; Justice</b>			
<b>Focus Area: Walk the Journey together, Put Learnings into Practice</b>			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Suggested Measureable Target</b>
Take Practical Measures toward Reconciliation and Justice	All staff	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Display the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags.</li> <li>➤ Teach and learn the truths of history.</li> <li>➤ Display and maintain Aboriginal artefacts in the front office. Add to this display over time.</li> <li>➤ Attend significant gatherings such as Reconciliation Masses</li> <li>➤ Make links to Victorian curriculum.</li> <li>➤ Provide learning opportunity for FIRE Carrier teachers &amp; students to grow their knowledge and understanding</li> <li>➤ Provide opportunities for FIRE Carrier leaders to pass on their knowledge and learning</li> </ul>
Acknowledge and teach the 'true' history of Australia	All staff	Ongoing	
Empower the FIRE Carrier leaders to share the learning and message within the school	Aboriginal Education Leader	Ongoing	
Engage with the College Social Justice group to implement student engagement to form ideas and initiatives to support reconciliation.	Aboriginal Educating Leader and Social justice Leader	Ongoing	



## F.I.R.E. Carrier Covenant est. 2022

### Ecological Stewardship.

**Focus Area: Ecological renewal and sustainability depends upon spiritual awareness and an attitude of responsibility – Caring for country.**

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Measurable Target
Take Practical Measures toward teaching and learning of how Indigenous people cared for and lived off the land	All staff	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Teach and learn the Indigenous way of living.</li> </ul>
Develop knowledge and skills of our Sustainability leaders and FIRE Carriers	All staff	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sustain learning and teaching practices</li> <li>➤ Make links to Victorian curriculum.</li> </ul>
Engage in Sandhurst switches off. Celebrate Earth Hour.	Sustainability Leader		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sustainability leaders share learning and provide opportunities for the whole school to be engaged and immersed in particular ways to help the land and country.</li> </ul>
Empower the FIRE Carrier leaders to share the learning and message within the school	Aboriginal Education Leader	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide learning opportunity for our Sustainability and FIRE Carrier students to grow their knowledge and understanding</li> <li>➤ Provide opportunities for FIRE Carrier leaders to pass on their knowledge and learning.</li> </ul>
Share the story of Totems how they are attached to the environment and what that means for us today regarding Ecological Stewardship.	Aboriginal Leader Sustainability Leader Principle	New space in refurbishment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Students will be able to recall and retell the story.</li> <li>➤ Create an Indigenous space as a learning space to tell this story.</li> </ul>

The FIRE Carrier Project is an initiative of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, the Opening the Doors Foundation and the Sandhurst Catholic Education Office, to promote and assist Reconciliation through Education in our Schools.