



St Patrick's Primary School



St Patrick's Primary School and Community Partnership Agreement

This agreement has been formulated and developed to improve educational outcomes for all Indigenous students at St Patrick's School Macksville. We will endeavour to improve student outcomes in Literacy and Numeracy. The process of developing the Personalised Learning Plans with parents and identifying plans they can put in place to support their child's education, will strengthen the link between Indigenous parents, the school and their child's learning.

Three reasons for forming a partnership with our Indigenous community group are to:

Improve Student Engagement

Our school is motivated to form a partnership by the desire to enhance student engagement in learning. This partnership will focus on the emotional, behavioural and/or cognitive dimensions of engagement. This partnership will aim to improve student motivation to succeed and encourage regular attendance at school.

Improve Academic Outcomes

Our whole school community is actively striving towards the improvement of student literacy and numeracy skills by supporting teachers with quality professional learning opportunities and ensuring that appropriate resources are provided. Our school is establishing a positive culture for learning with a focus on high expectations and closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students.

Foster Parental Involvement

Our school is committed to fostering a two way partnership between parents and school staff so that open communication and links with the school can occur. By empowering parents with knowledge, skills and confidence they are more able to have active involvement in their child's education

The school will actively involve Indigenous parents in

- Personalised Learning Plans for students
- Supporting student learning at home
- Reviewing the agreement
- Working towards higher attendance of students
- Forward planning and future directions

Embedding Indigenous perspectives throughout the school will enable Indigenous students to develop their sense of identity and pride in their culture and build knowledge and understanding of their cultural heritage, thus contributing to developing a positive self-concept.

The following sections show the responsibilities of all members of the school community.

School staff members will:

- develop understandings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, languages, traditions and ways of learning;
- respect and value students and acknowledge their cultural background(s);
- have high expectations of students and their abilities to learn and succeed;
- ensure that what students learn and how they learn is relevant to their lives and aspirations;
- strive to meet students' learning needs and use up to date resources, learning aids and equipment;
- develop individualised learning plans for students where appropriate;
- protect, value and care for students while they are at school, creating a school that is free from discrimination and harassment;
- inform parents/caregivers/families of their children's attendance and progress at school and show them examples of their children's work;
- investigate any concerns that students and parents/caregivers/families raise with them;
- welcome parents/caregivers/families to the school so they can see where their children learn and share local knowledge with the school; and
- encourage and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who want to work at the school or wish to become teachers or education workers.

Parents/caregivers/families will:

- expect school staff to provide quality teaching for their children;
- make sure their children attend school and do their homework;
- have high expectations of their children's abilities to learn and succeed;
- support their children's learning (for example, by reading to them or asking about their school work);
- encourage their children's interest in learning and let them know about the importance of education;
- meet with school staff to discuss their children's progress at school;
- praise their children's achievements and success;
- help school staff to understand local Indigenous history and cultures; and
- volunteer to help around the school where possible.

Students will:

- expect school staff to provide quality teaching that meets their needs and aspirations;
- attend school and do their best at their school work;
- do their homework;
- ask their teachers questions when they don't understand something (either in class or after class);
- ask teachers, parent/caregivers for help if they feel they need more support;
- know that parents/caregivers and teachers all want to help them to be their best and that going to school is one way to achieve this;
- respect and work with other students, the school and its staff, parents/caregivers and community members; and
- make suggestions about ways to improve their school.

