ESTABLISHING A CULTURALLY SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Statement of Commitment to the Cultural Safety of Aboriginal Students[1]**:**

St Catherine's School and Boarding House is committed to creating a culturally sensitive and safe environment for all students and we respect the unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. St Catherine's is committed to 'Closing the Gap' and acknowledges Australia is a nation of great diversity, and an ancient land that has been cared for by Indigenous Australians for many thousands of years. The School accepts that is has a shared responsibility to support children, families, colleagues and the local community to understand, respect and value diversity and the strengths of Aboriginal culture, values and practices.

We recognise the link between Aboriginal culture, identity and safety and actively create opportunities for Aboriginal students and the Aboriginal community to have a voice and presence in our school planning, policies, and activities.

Strategies to promote cultural safety in our school community include the School's Reconciliation Action Plan, which outlines the implementation of the School's aims to create an inclusive and welcoming physical and online environment for Aboriginal children and their families, to encourage students to express their culture and cultural rights, and to educate all students in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and cultural rights. Other measures include staff training in cultural competence and developing links with local elders, Aboriginal organisations and families.

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[1] The term 'Aboriginal' in this policy is inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.