



Version	1.0
Last Amendment	2022
Portfolio	Pastoral Wellbeing
Approved by	Leadership
Next review	2023

## FIRE CARRIER COVENANT

### OUR COVENANT

Our covenant was originally developed by students, staff in consultation with the Aboriginal team from Catholic Education Sandhurst. Our school community will be presented with ideas for Reconciliation in our local community by the Sandhurst Aboriginal Team, who were and are involved in the continuing development of our Covenant.

### 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). Catholic College Wodonga 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 and school boarding premises 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, Our School Catholic College Wodonga 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.



# FIRE CARRIER COVENANT

## SPIRITUALITY

Focus Area: Learn, Teach, Share, Grow towards understanding Aboriginal Spirituality (holistic)

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities/Resources
Engage, collaborate and consult with Aboriginal people to enrich and enhance, spiritual experiences for staff, student and community.	Leadership Team	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Work with colleagues with 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	Catholic Identity	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Use the message stick during reading of the Word at assemblies, liturgies and Masses</li> <li>➤ Participate in retreats and immersion opportunities to significant Aboriginal Sites i.e., Lake Mungo, Condobolin</li> </ul>
Perform the Aboriginal rituals in Mass and prayer e.g., Acknowledgment of country and Message Stick	Catholic Identity	12 months	<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>➤ Assist and take part in the preparation and attend the National Reconciliation Week Masses each year</li> </ul>



# FIRE CARRIER COVENANT

## CULTURAL RECOGNITION

Focus Area: Recognise Cultural Perspectives, Demonstrate Awareness

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities/Resources
Embrace Aboriginal stories and culture within College ceremonies	FIRE Carriers	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Acknowledge Country at 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 using local photos / images</li> </ul>
Publicly display our schools respect for Aboriginal people.	FIRE Carriers/ Leadership Team	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Work with staff to assist them to Incorporate Aboriginal perspectives in curriculum. Conduct Curriculum audits to identify current status and areas for future development</li> <li>➤ Share knowledge of culture at staff meetings and learning days.</li> <li>➤ Acknowledge Country on school's website, email messages and printed material</li> </ul>
Engage in professional development and cross-cultural opportunities to better cater for the needs of Aboriginal students in our schools	Teaching Staff	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Appoint a senior staff member as a FIRE Carrier leader and perform ceremony early in the year with the FIRE Carriers Lou Levy and the team from CES</li> <li>➤ Educate the school community of the Aboriginal story of the land and people on which the College is situated.</li> <li>➤ Tell the story of the local landscape and how it relates to our school</li> </ul>



# FIRE CARRIER COVENANT

## PRACTICAL RECONCILIATION AND JUSTICE

Focus Area: Walk the Journey Together, Put Learnings into Practice

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities/Resources
Take Practical Measures toward Reconciliation and Justice	FIRE Carriers	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>➤ Attend significant gatherings such as Reconciliation Masses</li> </ul>
Acknowledge and teach the 'true' history of Australia	Curriculum Leaders	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Make links to Victorian curriculum.</li> </ul>
Empower the FIRE Carrier leaders to share the learning and message within the school	FIRE Carrier Team	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>



## FIRE CARRIER COVENANT

### ECOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP

Focus Area: Ecological Renewal and Sustainability depends upon Spiritual Awareness and an Attitude of Responsibility – Caring for Country

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities/Resources
Take Practical Measures toward teaching and learning of how Indigenous people cared for and lived off the land	Leadership Team	2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Teach and learn the Indigenous way of living.</li> <li>➤ Sustain learning and teaching practices</li> <li>➤ Make links to Victorian curriculum.</li> </ul>
Develop knowledge and skills of our Sustainability leaders and FIRE Carriers	Leadership Team	2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Engage in Sandhurst switches off.</li> <li>➤ Celebrate Earth Hour.</li> </ul>
Empower the FIRE Carrier leaders to share the learning and message within the school	Leadership Team	2 years	<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> <li>➤ Provide learning opportunities for our Sustainability and FIRE Carrier students to grow and act on their knowledge and understanding.</li> </ul>
Share the story of Totems, how they are attached to the environment and what that means for us today regarding Ecological Stewardship.	Leadership Team	2 years	<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 e.g. Mercy Garden,</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.

Our School commits to completing or putting steps in place to complete all actions through measurable targets outlined above by the dates set out in the timeline above. A review at the end of the school year will be conducted and the plan will be updated for the following year.