



Version	1.1
Last Amendment	May 2024
Portfolio	Pastoral Wellbeing
Approved by	School Improvement Team
Next review	2025

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.	School Improvement Team and Aboriginal Education & Inclusion Working Party	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Work with colleagues in the Aboriginal Network and CES staff including attendance at network days throughout the year. ➤ Establish connections with and seek clarity from Elders and Aboriginal people locally to ensure protocols and knowledge are accurate.
Honour the Aboriginal significant days through prayer	Catholic Identity	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide regular opportunities for students that identify as Indigenous to be proud and celebrate their culture. ➤ Use the message stick during reading of the Word at assemblies, liturgies and Masses.
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"> ➤ Participate in retreats and immersion opportunities to significant Aboriginal Sites i.e., Lake Mungo, Condobolin ➤ Use the prayer and liturgy materials provided by CES Staff for Staff Meetings and PDs prepared during Aboriginal significant days. ➤ Assist and take part in the preparation and attend the National Reconciliation Week Masses and assemblies each year



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"> ➤ Acknowledge Country at staff meetings and all public events. ➤ Seek to build community connection with a view to localizing the Acknowledgment of Country and welcome to visitors as much as possible using local photos / images. ➤ Work with staff to assist them to Incorporate Aboriginal perspectives in curriculum.
Publicly display our schools respect for Aboriginal people.	FIRE Carriers/ School Improvement Team/Aboriginal Education & Inclusion Working Party	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Curriculum review of indigenous perspectives – see CCW Annual Action Plan 2024 with an Action Plan developed for beyond 2025. ➤ Share knowledge of culture at staff meetings and learning days. Eg standard agenda for a staff meeting each term. ➤ Acknowledge Country on school's website, email messages and printed material.
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"> ➤ Appoint a senior staff member as a FIRE Carrier leader and perform ceremony early in the year with the FIRE Carriers and CES Aboriginal Education Team ➤ Commitment to learning the Aboriginal story of the land and people on which the College is situated. ➤ Listen to the story of the local landscape and how it relates to our school.

		<p>Established April 2024</p> <p>Scheduled for May 2024</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Establishment of Aboriginal Education and Inclusion Working to improve our understanding of cultural practice in our community and our communication with and support Aboriginal students and their families.➤ Engaging with CES to assist staff to develop and implement Possum Skin Cloak Plans for our indigenous students
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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 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Display the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. ➤ Re-advertise for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Mentor ➤ Invite Aboriginal families to attend significant gatherings such as Reconciliation Masses and/or assemblies.
Acknowledge and teach the 'true' history of Australia	Curriculum Leaders	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Make links to Victorian curriculum.
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"> ➤ Provide learning opportunity for FIRE Carrier teachers & students to grow their knowledge and understanding. ➤ Provide opportunities for FIRE Carrier leaders to pass on their knowledge and learning



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	School Improvement Team and Aboriginal Education WP	2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Find opportunities to learn, model and teach the indigenous way of living. ➤ Make links to Victorian curriculum.
Develop knowledge and skills of our Sustainability leaders and FIRE Carriers	School Improvement Team and Aboriginal Education WP	2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Engage in Sandhurst Switches Off day - student led call to action. ➤ Celebrate Earth Hour - 29 March 2025 ➤ 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.
Empower the FIRE Carrier leaders to share the learning and message within the school	School Improvement Team and Aboriginal Education WP	2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide learning opportunities for our Sustainability and FIRE Carrier students to grow and act on their knowledge and understanding.
Share the story of Totems, how they are attached to the environment and what that means for us today regarding Ecological Stewardship.	School Improvement Team and Aboriginal Education WP	2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Students will be able to recall and retell the story of totems and their importance in aboriginal culture. ➤ Create an Indigenous space as a learning space to tell this story e.g. Mercy Garden – links to Master Plan

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.