

## F.I.R.E. Carrier Covenant est. 2021

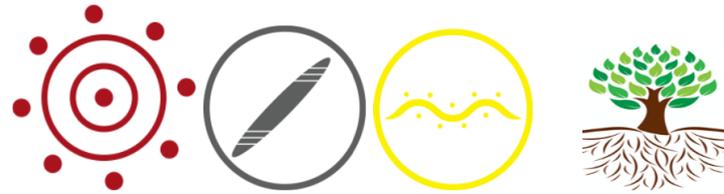
### **Covenant**

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**

At St Francis respect, dignity, diversity, acceptance and support are our priority for staff, students and community members. 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.

From our students:

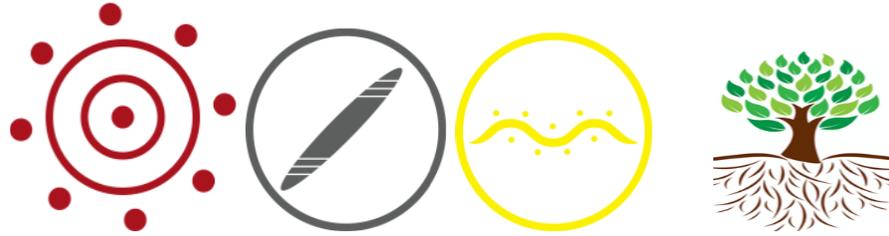
Reconciliation means accepting that decisions and actions in the past were not ok. Many wrong choices were made and for this we have to say sorry and ask for forgiveness.

We have a responsibility to respect everyone in our country, especially our First Nations people. This means including First Nations people in everything we do from decision making to activities. We need to make sure we are being inclusive in our words and actions. We need to be brave to make changes in our attitudes and actions and be 'upstanders, not bystanders'.

Reconciliation is important to us because we are a catholic school and Jesus taught us to love everyone, accept everyone, be kind to everyone, to forgive and to try and always make right choices. St Francis of Assisi taught us to share with others not so lucky as us, to take care of the environment and look after our animals. He teaches us to be grateful for what we have and only take and use what we need. We try our hardest to do this to care for country, just like First Nations people do.

## **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 and review of our Covenant.



## **CHILD SAFE STANDARDS Culturally safe environments**

The school St Frains of Assisi Primary School, 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**

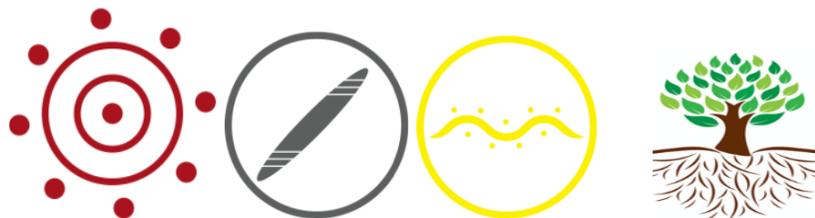
- 1, In endorsing and documenting the following activities contained within this FIRE Carrier covenant, Our School (insert school name here) commits to completing or putting steps in place to complete all actions through measurable targets outlined by the dates set out in the timeline included.*
- 2, 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?*

## Our Short Term and Long Term Targets (6 Months 12 Months 2 Years)

### Spirituality

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

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities/Resource
Whole school Reconciliation and FIRE Carriers liturgy	Suzie & Catholic Id student leadership team	Reconciliation Week	<u>Reconciliation &amp; FIRE Carriers Liturgy</u>
Through Prayer and knowledge gain/engage a deeper awareness of justice issues.	Class teachers	2022 Ongoing	Continue to incorporate Aboriginal prayers and symbols in liturgy by using the message stick during reading of the Word and at school masses.
Use Aboriginal songs and prayers for class prayers.	Suzie & Class teachers	2022 Ongoing	Learn and use the Aboriginal Our Father for the opening of the school year mass, so that it may be used by the community at other year level liturgies.
Explore the significance of spirituality in Aboriginal art.	Sharon	2022 Ongoing	Investigate possible resources to purchase for use in the school's Religious Education Program, to break open the Indigenous perspectives.
Listen to Aboriginal Stories	Class teachers	2022 Ongoing	Reading DreamTime stories appropriate to our Source of Life Units and Inquiry Units
			Investigate local Indigenous sites as possible excursion locations for all students.



## Cultural Recognition & Awareness

### Focus Area: Recognise Cultural Perspectives, Demonstrate Awareness

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities / Resources
Whole school Aboriginal Cultural Day	Suzie	19th August	<a href="#">Aboriginal Cultural Day Organisation</a>
Publicly display our schools respect for Aboriginal people.	All staff  Lanice& Nat Nat  Suzie Suzie	Ongoing	Continue to Acknowledge Country at School Assemblies, gatherings and Masses. Continue to have Aboriginal Art works on Yr. 6 shirts. Introduce staff sports shirts with Aboriginal design. Have acknowledgement of Country on email signatures and school website and newsletter. <b>Completed</b> Annually elect FIRE Carriers and be involved with the Sandhurst Diocese ceremonies. Exhibit Fire Carrier Flame in prominent position- entry to the school Office.
Engage in professional development and cross cultural opportunities to better cater for the needs of Aboriginal students in our schools	Suzie & Michael Chislom  Suzie & Sharon	Term 2,3 & 4 2022  Ongoing	Building Confidence Workshop  Identify Indigenous Perspective resources in classes e.g. picture books. Display Aboriginal posters in classrooms or corridors. Engage with local Aboriginal groups and organisations.

## Practical Reconciliation & Justice

### Focus Area: Walk the Journey together, Put Learnings into Practice

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities/Resource
Take Practical Measures toward Reconciliation and Justice	Suzie & Classroom teachers	2022 Ongoing	Staff PD developed by the Australians Together organisation. Display the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags when landscape work is completed Display and maintain Aboriginal artefacts in the front office. Add to this display over time. Attend significant gatherings such as Reconciliation Masses. Make links to Victorian curriculum.
Acknowledge and teach the 'true' history of Australia	Suzie & Michael Chislom	Term 2,3 & 4 2022	Building Confidence Workshop. Teach and learn the truths of history after PD is completed using resources from Australians Together. Make links to Victorian curriculum.
Empower the FIRE Carrier leaders to share the learning and message within the school	Suzie	Ongoing	Provide learning opportunity for FIRE Carrier teachers & students to grow their knowledge and understanding
		2022 Ongoing	Provide opportunities for FIRE Carrier leaders to pass on their knowledge and learning.

## Ecological Stewardship

**Focus Area: Ecological renewal and sustainability depends on spiritual awareness and an attitude of responsibility- Caring for country**

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities / Resources
Register for Earthcare and complete level 1 & 2	Suzie and Staff EfS Team Envirokids	2022	Earthcare website and facebook page Earthcare audits CES Laudato Si action plan
Take Practical Measures toward teaching and learning of how Indigenous people cared for and lived off the land	All staff	2022 Ongoing	Teach and learn the Indigenous way of living. Make links to Victorian curriculum.
Develop knowledge and skills of our Sustainability leaders and FIRE Carriers	Suzie	2022 Ongoing	EfS leaders provide opportunities for the whole school to be engaged and immersed in particular ways to help the land and country. Engage in Sandhurst switches off. Celebrate Earth Hour. Have a nude food policy at school and home.
Empower the FIRE Carrier leaders to share the learning and message within the school	Class teachers and Suzie	Once per term	Provide learning opportunities for our Enviro kidz and FIRE Carrier students to grow their knowledge and understanding e.g. Frog Id program, Earthcare projects, Tree Planting day, Sandhurst Switched Off.  Students will be able to recall and retell the story at assemblies.
Share the story of Totems how they are attached to the environment and what that means for us today regarding Ecological Stewardship.	Class teachers and Suzie	2022-23	Create an Indigenous space as a learning space to tell this story, through the Sacred Space and Nature trail further development via the Phil Billington grant.

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.