INDIGENOUS EDUCATION POLICY
2014

Date issued: March 2014
Date to be reviewed: 2018

St Joseph’s Primary School recognises the uniqueness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, their identity and their culture.

This policy is underpinned by the Foundational Beliefs and Practices of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Lismore – The Essential Framework and Diocesan and legislative imperatives.

RATIONALE:
We recognise the Traditional Nation of the Bundjalung people of the Tweed Region.

Education is fundamental in enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People to participate fully and equitably in Australian Society. Education about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and their cultural heritage is fundamental for all Australians in building our national identity.

Quality Aboriginal Education programs promote reconciliation. Reconciliation is an important process which recognises cultural traditions and values. It promotes the principles of partnership, inclusion, equity and justice.

IMPLEMENTATION:
The effective implementation of this policy will ensure that our school:

- Promote ongoing consultation with parents and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure an appropriate response to the differing needs of students
- Recognise and nurture the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s oneness with the land and acknowledge that this is reflected in their spirituality and values, both traditional and contemporary
- Encourage and promote the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the life of the school community
- Implement, monitor and evaluate appropriate curricula for Aboriginal students in order to improve educational outcomes
- Provide opportunities across the curricula for every student to develop respect for Aboriginal people and their cultures
- Encourage employment and offer assistance for development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander personnel in our school
- Participate in celebrations of culture sharing and reconciliation activities.