

Aboriginal Education Policy

Aboriginal Statement

It is crucial that schools are places where Aboriginal students feel a sense of belonging. Aboriginal students have the right to be Aboriginal and to express their own unique culture and identity. Schools and all levels of the Department must respect this.

The department of School Education has the obligation to meet the needs of Aboriginal students. The whole school system therefore is responsible for the education of Aboriginal students, not only through special programs or Aboriginal funding, but also through all programs.

Rationale

Monitoring the delivery and outcomes of Aboriginal education programs and educational services to Aboriginal students is fundamental to the achievement of equity and social justice.

The Aboriginal Education policy provides a framework for taking up this challenge. The focus of this policy will be the delivery of quality teaching and learning programs in schools for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students alike, and the development of strategic initiatives.

Aims

To promote educational achievements of Aboriginal students
To educate all students about Aboriginal Australia

Policy

For Aboriginal Students: Curriculum, teaching and assessment programs will be challenging and culturally appropriate.

For Aboriginal Communities: Aboriginal communities and the Department of School Education will become partners in the whole education process

For all staff - all students - all schools: All department of School Education staff and students will have knowledge and understanding of, and respect for Aboriginal Australia.

At Katoomba High School:

- Aboriginal Studies is offered in years 11 and 12 for the Higher School Certificate
- An ASSPA committee is in operation and has applied for funds for a variety of initiatives to promote Aboriginal education in the school
- The traditional owners of the land on which Katoomba High School stands are acknowledged at school assemblies and official school functions such as Speech Night.
- The expertise of the ACLO, Roger Bolt, is sought by the school to assist in the management of Aboriginal students.
- The Aboriginal flag is flown by the school during NAIDOC week in accordance with official protocols
- An Aboriginal mural has been created in the lower corridor of the school. The mural acknowledges Aboriginal culture and promotes the idea of Reconciliation.

In HSIE:

- Aboriginal Studies Camp to Jervis Bay is a regular curriculum highlight. The camp involves interaction with members of the Wreck Bay Aboriginal community, bush tucker and historical walks.
- Aboriginal guests from the local community are invited to the school to assist students with oral history projects in year 11.
- Guest speakers from Link Up address Aboriginal Studies students about issues concerning the Stolen Generations Aboriginal content is integrated into History and Geography syllabus documents, and mandated in teaching programs.
- Aboriginal posters adorn the walls of our classrooms.
- Aboriginal perspectives are reflected in all classes as the opportunity arises in the context of a lesson.