

## **Agreement for School-Community Partnerships**

### **Engagement Plan**

This is an agreement between the staff of **St Ambrose primary school Pottsville**, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students and their parents/caregivers/families. In conjunction with a close cultural connection/assistance from the local Indigenous community the Bundjalung nation.

We agree to work together so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students (Koorie students) have the best start in life. Students' talents and abilities should be fully developed so that they achieve their best at school.

We want students to receive a quality education, to feel supported at school and at home and to be proud of their identity and culture(s).

Our first goals are that students will successfully complete Year 6 and have the foundations in reading and writing in Standard Australian literacy and numeracy to confidently transition to High School.

The following sections show what we will do to achieve these goals.

#### **All School staff members will:**

- develop understandings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, languages, traditions and ways of learning;
- respect and value students and acknowledge their cultural background (s);
- have high expectations of students and their abilities to learn and succeed;
- ensure that what students learn and how they learn is relevant to their lives and aspirations
- strive to meet students' learning needs and use up to date resources, learning aids and equipment;
- develop individualised learning plans for students where appropriate;
- protect, value and care for students while they are at school, creating a school that is free from discrimination and harassment;
- inform parents/caregivers/families of their children's attendance and progress at school and show them examples of their children's work;
- investigate any concerns that students and parents/caregivers/families raise with them;

- welcome parents/caregivers/families to the school so they can see where their children learn and share local knowledge with the school;
- work with parents/caregivers/families on school policy and planning
- be flexible with school organisation and resources; and
- encourage and support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who want to work at the school or wish to become teachers or education workers.

**Parents/caregivers/families will:**

- expect school staff to provide quality teaching for their children;
- make sure their children attend school and do their homework;
- have high expectations of their children's abilities to learn and succeed;
- support their children's learning (for example, by reading to them or asking about their school work);
- encourage their children's interest in learning and let them know about the importance of education;
- meet with school staff to discuss their children's progress at school;
- praise their children's achievements and success;
- assist with the selection of the school principal and teaching staff;
- take part in school policy and planning;
- help school staff to understand local Indigenous history and cultures; and
- volunteer to help around the school where possible.

**Students will:**

- expect school staff to provide quality teaching that meets their needs and aspirations;
- attend school and do their best at their school work;
- do their homework;
- ask their teachers questions when they don't understand something (either in class or after class);

- ask teachers, IEW and parent/caregivers for help if they feel they need more support;
- know that parents/caregivers, IEW and teachers all want to help them to be their best and that going to school is one way to achieve this;
- respect and work with other students, the school and its staff, parents/caregivers and community members; and
- make suggestions about ways to improve their school.

St Ambrose's Indigenous education worker in consultation with local Indigenous organisations (Bundjalung Nation) and their representatives will provide:

- support students and their parent/caregivers by encouraging students to attend school;
- join in celebrations of student success;
- respect the school, its vision and ethos; and
- provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness training to school staff when required.

We agree that this document will remain in place if we have a new principal and that we will regularly reaffirm our commitment to it and renegotiate it when our needs and circumstances change. We also agree to send a copy to the **local Indigenous education consultative body** for information and acknowledgement.

**This agreement was completed on 16/03/2018.**

Together, the undersigned school staff members and parent/caregivers and local Indigenous representatives, believe they can work together to make a difference in education and the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (Koori Kids) children and young people.

Parent/ caregivers	School staff	Students/ Student Representatives (if applicable)	Community organisation Representatives (if applicable)
			
			
			