

Lindenow South Primary School

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**The Child Safe Standards****Culturally safe environments at Lindenow South Primary School.**

This is a new standard that requires schools to make sure Aboriginal children and young people feel safe.

This guidance applies to all schools, even if there are no students who have identified themselves as Aboriginal.

The term 'Aboriginal' includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It is important to be respectful of how individual children, students, their families and community refer to themselves and use appropriate language.

Cultural safety includes being provided with a safe, nurturing and positive environment where Aboriginal children:

- feel comfortable being themselves
- feel comfortable expressing their culture, including their spiritual and belief systems
- are supported by carers who respect their Aboriginality and encourage their sense of self and identity.

Benefits of cultural safety

- Being able to express their culture makes Aboriginal children stronger and safer. Aboriginal children and young people who don't feel safe being themselves and expressing their individuality may be less willing to report abuse.
- Providing safe environments for children has positive, lifelong impacts that cannot be underestimated, and cultural safety is a key dimension of safety for Aboriginal children.

Key elements of cultural safety

Understand identity

Identifying as Aboriginal is one part of a child or young person's identity. Like everyone, Aboriginal people have different life experiences and characteristics. Schools must recognise that each person is unique with their own characteristics, strengths and challenges.

Respect culture

- Culture and identity are linked. By supporting Aboriginal children to feel strong in their identity schools also help them enjoy their cultural rights.
- Australia's colonial history has caused significant trauma and hurt that individuals, families and communities still feel today. However, Aboriginal communities have a long history of resilience and growth in the face of adversity and trauma. Schools should show respect for the deep resilience of Victorian Indigenous First Nations people

Eliminate racism and abuse

- Making your school culturally safe means taking the specific action needed to keep Aboriginal children and young people safe from abuse and harm.
- Schools need to address all forms of racism and consider attitudes and practices that are a barrier to providing a culturally safe environment and to address all forms of racism.

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Consultation	School council meeting on 17/6/2026
Endorsed By	Adam Cairns school Principal. Stephanie Hoekstra Vice Principal. On
Endorsed by school council president	
Endorsed on	
Next review date	17/6/2028

Actions schools must take

To comply with this standard, at minimum, schools must encourage and actively support a child or student's ability to express their culture and enjoy their cultural rights in the following ways:

- equip staff, students, volunteers and the school community to acknowledge and appreciate the strengths of Aboriginal culture and understand its importance to the wellbeing and safety of Aboriginal children and students
- adopt measures to ensure racism is identified, confronted and not tolerated
- address any instances of racism within the school environment with appropriate consequences
- actively support participation and inclusion in the school by Aboriginal children, students and their families
- ensure school policies, procedures, systems and processes together create a culturally safe and inclusive environment and meet the needs of Aboriginal children, students and their families
- develop and endorse a policy or statement detailing the strategies and actions the school will take.

