



# SCHOOL – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

## Engagement Plan

This is an agreement between the staff of Mt St Patrick College, Murwillumbah, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students and their parents, caregivers and families.

We acknowledge the Bundjalung People as the traditional owners of the land on which the school is based.

We agree to work together so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Students have the best start in life. Students' talents and abilities should be fully developed so that they achieve at school to the best of this ability.

Students will receive a quality education and feel supported at school and at home and be proud of their identity and culture.

Our primary goal is that students will successfully complete Year 12 and reach their highest possible standards in Numeracy, Literacy, Reading and Writing as outlined in the Curriculum for Secondary Education.

Indigenous identity and culture will be valued and recognised and as such Welcome to Country/Acknowledgement of Country will feature at all gatherings of School and Community, will be part of homeroom procedures each morning and form part of the protocols attached to all meetings that take place in the school.

We will work together to make connections and develop relationships with Indigenous Services and community members to inform, support and connect our students, families and school.

## School Staff Members will:

- Develop understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures, languages, traditions and ways of learning.
- Acknowledge the diversity that exists amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people ie language, culture, customs and lived experiences.
- Respect and value students and acknowledge their background
- 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 relevant resources and equipment including utilising our existing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander colleagues to support the development of these resources and an understanding of their cultural histories and knowledge
- 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 and families of their child's attendance and progress at school.
- Investigate any concerns that students and parents, caregivers or families raise with them regarding their child's schooling.
- Welcome new families to the school so they can see where their children learn and to share local knowledge with the school.
- Work with families on school policy and planning
- Be flexible with school organisation and resources
- Encourage and Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who may want to work or gain experience to become teachers or education workers.
- Be aware that some families may have difficulties accessing new technologies
- Support the display of and use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language within the school

### **Students will:**

- Expect school staff to provide quality teaching that meets their needs and aspirations
- Attend school and do their best work at all times
- Complete home activities set by school to the best of their ability
- Ask their teachers questions when they don't understand something
- Ask teachers, parents, caregivers or families if they feel they need more support.
- Know that teachers, parents, caregivers and their families 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, family and community members
- Participate in Welcome to country ceremonies held at Liturgies, Assemblies, NAIDOC week celebrations and any other significant ceremonies or celebrations held at school
- Be involved in and actively participate in School Leadership Groups

### **Parents, Caregivers and Families will:**

- Expect school staff to provide quality teaching for their children
- Make sure their children attend school and complete any home activities set to the best of their ability
- Have high expectations of their children's ability to learn and succeed
- Meet with school staff to discuss their children's progress at school
- Praise and celebrate with their children, their achievements and successes
- Be consulted in the selection of staff members
- Be consulted and take part in school policy and planning
- Assist school staff to understand local Indigenous history, cultures, language, traditions and ways of learning.

