ABORIGINAL EDUCATION POLICY
OCTOBER 2013

1. **RATIONALE**
   It is recognised that indigenous and non-indigenous students alike benefit significantly from programs that encompass aspects of the contemporary cultural heritage and lifestyle of Aborigines, as well as the historical and traditional aspects of Aboriginal history. Furthermore, indigenous students benefit greatly from culturally inclusive school environments that recognise and support their particular needs.

2. **AIMS**
   - To achieve improved educational outcomes for all students.
   - To promote, maintain and support the teaching of indigenous studies, cultures and languages to indigenous and non-indigenous students.
   - To strengthen relationships between indigenous communities and the school.

3. **IMPLEMENTATION**
   - Aboriginal students and their families add to the rich diversity of our school and community.
   - Aboriginal education within our school will be consistent with the Catholic Schools Office Policy Statement “Aboriginal Education” (October 2001).
   - An appropriate teaching staff member will be assigned the task of coordinating and managing Aboriginal Education across the school, and to establish links with the wider community.
   - Aboriginal studies and appropriate resources will feature in the curriculum at all year levels.
   - Specific needs of Aboriginal students will be identified and addressed.
   - All data relating to performance of Aboriginal students and parent involvement in schools will be collected as required.
   - Partnerships will be developed between the school and the community to jointly enhance educational outcomes and to encourage active involvement of indigenous people in school decision-making processes.
   - Partnerships will be developed with Aboriginal organisations and agencies as required.
   - Special days and events will be recognised, e.g. NAIDOC Week.
   - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities will be supported through fundraising projects. Each year we will raise funds to support:
     - **The Indigenous Literacy Foundation.** This organisation works to provide access to books and literacy resources to over 200 remote Indigenous communities in Northern Territory, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and New South Wales. In conjunction with Book Week each year, “The Great Book Swap” is organised to provide financial to the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.
     - **The Mary MacKillop Foundation.** The Mary MacKillop Foundation provides grants to organisations for small life-changing projects in the areas of self-determination, spirituality and strengthening of culture. Towards the end of the football season each year, a “footy colours day” is organised to raise money to support the Mary MacKillop Foundation.
   - The Aboriginal flag will be flown on appropriate occasions throughout the school year.
   - The Awabakal people are the traditional owners of the area on which our school stands. The school community shows respect for Aboriginal culture and heritage and the ongoing relationship that the Traditional Custodians have with the Land. The “Acknowledgement of Country” will be used to
open each Friday afternoon assembly, and on important occasions such as the end-of-year presentation evening.

- Strategies that promote and increase involvement of parents of Aboriginal students in school activities will be implemented.
- School anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies will be developed and implemented.
- Policy, curriculum and program advice will be sought from the Aboriginal Education Officer at the Catholic Schools Office.

4. **BUDGET**
   An appropriate budget will be set aside to ensure the effectiveness of this policy.

5. **EVALUATION**
   This policy will be reviewed every three years or as required by CSO or Board of Studies amendments.