



Melrose Park Public School Reconciliation Action Plan 2022 – 2024

Our Vision for Reconciliation

Reconciliation is about recognising and celebrating the cultures, languages, history, practices and stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and forging a reconciled future of mutual respect, equality, and truth-telling in and out of the classroom.

Education, wellbeing and social awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture is reinforced through our school values of Respect Responsibility and Learners as we aim to nurture and inspire every student and raise high expectations for all.

We are committed to supporting and empowering our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, strengthening relationships in our community that acknowledges reconciliation as a shared responsibility in shaping a sense of national unity and identity.

Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Wallumedegal people as the traditional custodians of the Land on which we work, learn and play. We recognise their continuing connection to Land, water and culture. We pay respects to Elders past and present.

We come together in peace and harmony with all those who share this land.

Our School

History Reference https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/melrose_park

Melrose Park is one of 16 suburbs that form the [City of Ryde](#). The city is approximately 12 kilometres from the centre of Sydney and occupies most of the divide between the [Parramatta](#) and [Lane Cove](#) Rivers. It is bisected from west to east by one of Sydney's busiest roads, Victoria Road. It is crossed north-south by another main road, Lane Cove Road and is skirted on the north-west by the M2 Motorway and Epping Road.

The suburb's western boundary is Wharf Road. On most of its eastern boundary is the [Ryde-Parramatta Golf Course](#), except the southernmost end which is bounded by Adelaide Street. Its northern boundary is Victoria Road. Its southern boundary is the Parramatta River.

At the time of the arrival of Anglo-Europeans at [Sydney Cove](#) in January 1788, the Wallumedegal or Wallumede were the traditional owners of the area which they called Wallumetta. This clan formed part of a large Dharug language group.

On the western side of Wharf Road was the Wallumetta Infants' School. This was established in 1944 after six years' agitation and educated the smaller children on the Golf Links Estate. In 1947 its name was changed to Melrose Park Public School. The renaming of the primary school from Wallumetta to Melrose Park appears an innocuous change but behind it lay a passionate debate. Few inhabitants know how close the suburb came to being called Wallumetta, that is, the name by which the traditional owners, the Wallumedegal, called the land.

Reconciliation Action Plan 2022 – 2024

Melrose Park Public School Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is developed in consultation with all staff, student voice and in partnership with the Out Of School Hours care providers, Jigsaw.

To promote Reconciliation, we wanted to develop a RAP that demonstrated our commitment to national reconciliation and to our school's values of respect, responsibility and learners.

We acknowledge that Melrose Park Public School exists on Wallumedegal land and it is important to acknowledge that it sits close to the Parramatta River where Aboriginal culture, history and living were present.

How will we do this?

- By supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families to engage with school life, developing a Personalised Learning Pathway PLP, that is shared with teacher, student and family.
- Supporting families in wellbeing that supports good attendance and social awareness.
- Provide access to learning and quality of learning for all students.
- Participate in events that acknowledge reconciliation through classroom learning.
- Ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are embedded and taught with respect across all learning areas and general capabilities.
- Participate in staff development sessions that develop skills, knowledge, awareness and understanding of reconciliation.

Reconciliation Action Overview

	In the classroom	Around the school	With the community
Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the classroom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural competence for staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to country Celebrate National Reconciliation week Build relationships with community Cultural competence for students
Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach about reconciliation Explore current affairs and issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgement of country Care for Country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags Take action against racism
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Embed cross curriculum priority Curriculum Planning Australian Professional Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusive Practices Staff Engagement with RAP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local sites, events and excursions Celebrate RAP Progress

Relationships

in the classroom, around the school, with the community

RAP Action
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in classrooms

Our Commitment

We welcome all families into classrooms and invite parents/carers and community members to be active representatives on our school's committees. We commit to ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives inform decision making processes by respecting the experiences and knowledge that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples can bring to our committees.

RAP Action
Elders and Traditional Owners Share Histories and Cultures

Our Commitment

We are committed to forging a meaningful and ongoing relationship with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, and people recognised in their community as Traditional Owners. We hope this relationship can be of mutual benefit, and that our local Elders and Traditional Owners will feel safe, and confident, to share their historical and cultural knowledge with our staff, students and children.

RAP Action
Cultural Competence for Staff

Our Commitment

We will reflect on our current level of cultural competence and provide staff with a range of opportunities to build and extend their knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. We also commit to supporting staff to independently seek out and participate in a variety of cultural awareness experiences that assist them on their own journey of understanding.

RAP Action
Welcome to Country

Our Commitment

Where appropriate, significant events at our school commence with Welcome to Country. Protocols for welcoming visitors to Country have been a part of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures for thousands of years. By incorporating these protocols into formal events and important occasions, we recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Custodians of their Land.

RAP Action Celebrate National Reconciliation Week
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Our Commitment

Our school community celebrates National Reconciliation Week (NRW) which is held from 27 May to 3 June each year by talking about reconciliation in the classroom and around the school, and celebrating with the community. NRW is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national Reconciliation effort.

RAP Action Build Relationships with Community
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Our Commitment

We commit to building relationships with our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, that are built on mutual respect, trust and inclusiveness. We value these relationships and their role in helping to create opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous staff, students, children and community members.

RAP Action Cultural Competence for Students and Children

Our Commitment

We will develop our everyday program to ensure it provides children and students with explicit opportunities to build their knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, within and beyond the classroom. This commitment extends to the inclusion of cultural competence principles, fostered in teachers and educators, in the ethos of our classrooms and across our school.

Respect

in the classroom, around the school, with the community

RAP Action
Teach about Reconciliation

Our Commitment

Our school community is committed to learning about Reconciliation in Australia. Having an understanding of the concept, history and progress of Reconciliation is an important part of continuing the Reconciliation journey. This understanding also helps to strengthen engagement with our school's RAP by positioning it within the broader story of Reconciliation in Australia.

RAP Action
Explore Current Affairs and Issues

Our Commitment

We are committed to raising awareness of current affairs and issues in the public domain that are of particular significance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the process of Reconciliation. This will be done through curriculum delivery, policies and procedures, and will be integrated into the ethos of our school.

RAP Action
Acknowledgement of Country

Our Commitment

Our school recognises the continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to the Country on which we live, work, learn and grow. All staff and students have the opportunity to show respect to Traditional Owners and Custodians by regularly conducting an Acknowledgement of Country at meetings and events throughout the year.

RAP Action
Care for Country

Our Commitment

We commit to actively connecting with, and caring for, the Country/place on which our school stands; Wallumedegal Country . This involves respectfully learning about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives, philosophies and practices about

cares for Country / place, as well as physically demonstrating respect for the skies, waterways and Land on which we live, learn and play. We will consider First Nations perspectives as part of broader sustainability plans, policies and practices. This will reinforce the meaningful and continuous connections Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have continued to have with Country/place, as well as provide positive opportunities for all members of our educational community to become socially and environmentally responsible citizens who display a growing awareness of the importance of First Nations land management and sustainability.

RAP Action Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags

Our Commitment

Our school displays the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags as a demonstration of our pride and respect for the histories, cultures and contributions of Australia's First Peoples. Displaying the flags promotes a sense of community partnership and a commitment toward Reconciliation.

RAP Action Physical Acknowledgement of Country

Our Commitment

Our school proudly commits to displaying a physical Acknowledgement of Country as a way of showing awareness of, and respect for, the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which our school is located.

RAP Action Take Action Against Racism
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Our Commitment

Racism can have serious negative consequences for the people who experience it, for those who witness it, and for wider society. When racism is properly understood it is easier to overcome. We commit to building awareness of what racism is, the impacts of racism and how to respond effectively when it occurs through an anti-racism strategy tailored to the needs of our school.

Opportunities

in the classroom, around the school, with the community

RAP Action

Embed Cross - curriculum Priorities - School Specific

Our Commitment

All staff from across the school are supported to understand and embed the Australian Curriculum cross - curriculum priority Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures in the curriculum. The cross - curriculum priority is considered in the development of units, lesson plans and resources in all learning areas and across all year levels.

RAP Action

Curriculum Planning

Our Commitment

Embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in curriculum planning, development and evaluation processes is a key and ongoing consideration across all year levels and learning areas. Curriculum documents will be audited to identify the extent to which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions are already embedded, and to identify opportunities for strengthening the representation of this content in the curriculum.

RAP Action

Australian Professional Standards for Teachers - School Specific

Our Commitment

All teachers are supported to understand and meaningfully engage with the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, specifically Focus Area 2.4: 'Understand and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to promote reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians'

RAP Action

Inclusive Policies

Our Commitment

All staff in our school are aware of policies that refer specifically to improving educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and increasing knowledge of, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in Australia. We have a plan in place to ensure all staff comply with these policies in their daily practice. Our internal procedures have been amended to ensure they are also inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and increase knowledge of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in Australia.

RAP Action Staff Engagement with RAP

Our Commitment

Commitment to the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) from all staff is essential for developing a RAP that is implemented in a meaningful and sustainable way. All staff will be involved in the ongoing development and implementation of our RAP through staff development opportunities facilitated by the RAP Working Group and supported by the Executive of the school.

RAP Action Local Sites, Events and Excursions
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Our Commitment

We commit to learning more about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions of the Country on which we live, work, learn and play, by working with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to learn about events of historical and cultural significance and visit appropriate sites.

RAP Action Celebrate RAP Progress
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Our Commitment

We are committed to reflecting on the progress made in the growth of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions in our school. We will track the progress of our RAP, continually revisit our commitments, and celebrate our achievements, while generating new ideas to develop and sustain our RAP into the future