**Introduction:**

It is important that teachers at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College acknowledge the unique and diverse educational needs and aspirations of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and incorporate indigenous perspectives in curriculum so as to better inform all within our community.

**VALUES**

Teachers at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College are to encourage understanding, appreciation and the enrichment of the religious dimension of the lives of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the light of the gospel. Catholic educators at our schools impart knowledge which is worthwhile, honest and accurate in bringing about the removal of fear and ignorance towards Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples – their cultures, histories, beliefs and lifestyles. Our Lady of the Southern Cross College’s community, in humility, celebrates the diversity of cultures which exist in our community.

**POLICY STATEMENT**

Our Lady of the Southern Cross College will enter into a partnership with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples to provide quality Catholic education which will achieve equitable and appropriate educational outcomes.

**OBJECTIVES / CONSEQUENCES**

1. That the College community (students, parents and staff) recognises the diverse history, culture, values, beliefs, and language of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people.

2. That as a welcoming and culturally safe environment, the College will fly indigenous flags at appropriate times.

3. That significant dates on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander calendar, such as NAIDOC, are recognised and celebrated.

4. That in their planning, teachers incorporate the Australian Curriculum’s cross-curriculum priority of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures.

5. That staff recognise and plan for the learning needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island students, as demonstrated in students’ Personalised Learning Plans.

6. That all teachers ensure the level of expectation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students is equal to that of non-indigenous students.

7. That a partnership relationship be developed and maintained between the school, the student, their family and their community.

8. That funding be sought from appropriate sources to enable achievement of these objectives.
9. That a ‘Welcome to Country’ be performed at significant assemblies of the College community.

10. That teachers participate in ongoing professional development to enhance and update cultural understandings.