

F.I.R.E. Carrier Covenant est. 2023

Covenant

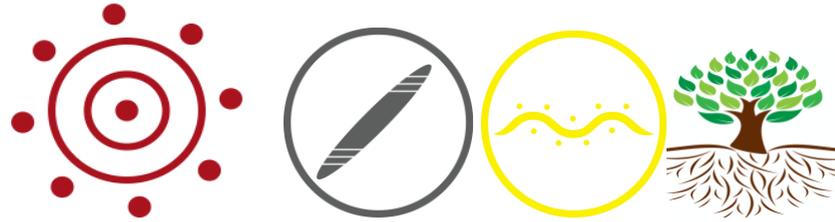
We recognise the special place and culture of Aboriginal peoples within Australia. We acknowledge that Aboriginal peoples have been the caretakers of this Land for more than 60,000 years. We respect their spiritual connection to Mother Earth through the Dreaming.

‘An apology begins the healing process. Apology means understanding, a willingness to enter into the suffering. It implies a commitment to do more’. The late Sir Ronald Wilson, Chair of the National Inquiry into the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families.

We understand that practical measures need to address the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal people in education, health, employment, and general opportunity.

“Reconciliation is an active pursuit – it’s about getting on with what’s needed and what we know to get the results we all want, and that’s a mixture of measures that target the body, the mind and the spirit.” Mick Dodson, Australian of the Year, National Press Club address, 17 February 2009.

True Reconciliation requires national and local solutions achieved through positive and purposeful partnerships not just for today but for tomorrow. We work for Reconciliation, in partnership with those who believe that there can be an alternative to the present order.



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Covenants emphasise the ethos and faith belief of Catholic schools and the Social Justice response they are committed to make as part of their Christian identity. Schools' expressed commitment is reflected in practical goals and actions which they strive to achieve in the year ahead.

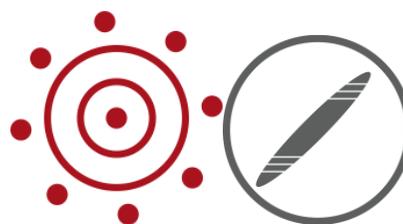
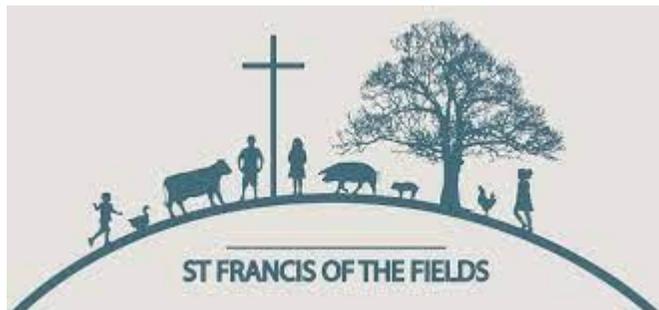
School covenants express in ways, specific to each school, recognition of the special contribution Aboriginal peoples and their cultures make to Australian society, their relationship and connection to the land, their present position of disadvantage and social exclusion. They declare the school and school community's commitment to stand in solidarity with Aboriginal peoples to achieve true reconciliation and acknowledgement, by all Australians, of their rightful position within Australian society. (fire-carriers Sandhurst.pdf)

Our School

At St Francis of the Fields we recognise the Jaara people as the traditional custodians of this beautiful land that our school is built on. We are committed to the journey of Reconciliation through education and awareness building. Through prayer we gain a deeper awareness of Indigenous Spirituality. We embrace Aboriginal stories and culture through school ceremonies. As a school community we take practical steps towards Reconciliation and Justice.

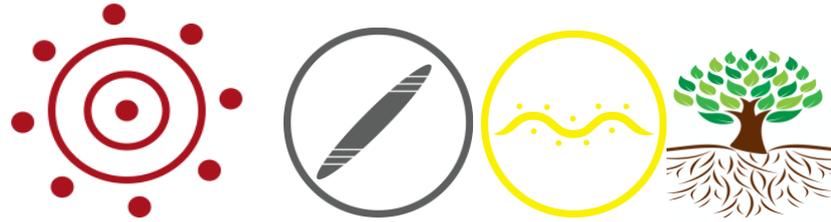
Our Covenant

(Describe how you developed your Reconciliation Covenant, who sits on your Reconciliation Covenant working group and any other relevant information ie. Our school community was presented with ideas for Reconciliation in our local community by the Sandhurst Aboriginal Team, who were and are involved in the continuing development of our Covenant.



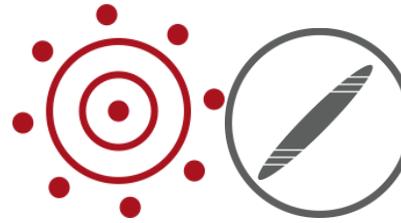
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Spirituality			
Focus Area: Learn , Teach, Share, Grow towards understanding Aboriginal Spirituality (holistic)			
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities/Resources
Through prayer and knowledge gain a deeper awareness of Aboriginal Spirituality			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bring the Message Stick to all liturgies, assemblies, Staff & School Advisory Council Meetings 	FIRE Carriers – students and teachers.	Ongoing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create or obtain prayer cloths that reflect the local Dja Dja Wurrung culture throughout the year, particularly during National Reconciliation Week. 	FIRE Carriers and Mrs Hitchcock	2023	FIRE Carrier meeting – research Dja Dja Wurrung cultural symbols and how these can be incorporated into a prayer cloth.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn more about Aboriginal Spirituality to use in classrooms and to share with school community. 	FIRE Carriers – students and teachers.	2023	Invite CES Aboriginal Education Officers, Spirituality and Faith Formation Education Officers to a FIRE Carrier meeting.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a school Aboriginal prayer book for students and staff to use. 	FIRE Carriers – students and teachers.	2023	FIRE Carrier meeting – research and create the Aboriginal prayer book.



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Cultural Recognition & Awareness			
Focus Area: Recognise Cultural Perspectives, Demonstrate Awareness			
Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities / Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flag poles for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags for the front of the school. 	FIRE Carriers – students and teachers.	Term 4 2022	Mr Moloney has agreed to shift flagpoles to the front of the school. FIRE Carriers designed how to situate the flagpoles. – Follow up with Mr Moloney.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite Elders to Welcome Visitors to Country during FIRE Carriers Commissioning Ceremony. 	FIRE Carriers – students and Mrs Hitchcock	Term 4 2022	Consult Troy Firebrace about who we could invite. FIRE Carriers write an invitation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrate National Reconciliation Week! Plan whole school liturgy and activities that spread the message of Reconciliation. (Include Assisi Kindergarten) 	FIRE Carriers – students, Mrs Hitchcock and teachers.	Term 2 2023	Plan NRW in Term 1 2023.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If possible attend the Sandhurst Diocese Healing Mass. 	FIRE Carriers – students, Mrs Hitchcock and teachers.	Term 2 2023	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sorry Day learning activities to focus on the ‘Stolen Generation’ as appropriate for year levels. 	FIRE Carriers – students, Mrs	Term 2 2023	Ask Troy Firebrace to work with teachers and FIRE Carriers to create learning activities.
			Staff and FIRE Carrier Meetings.

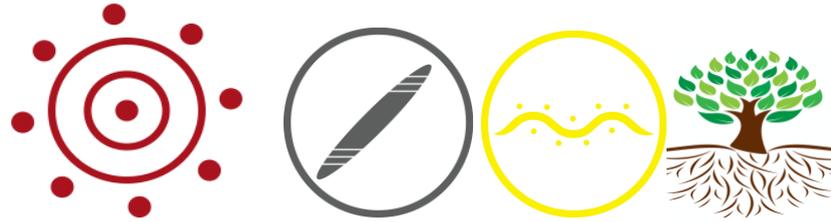


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Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Activities / Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate Aboriginal Cross Curriculum Priorities. Support to be provided for this by teacher and student FIRE Carriers. Term 3 - 2023: NAIDOC Week to be celebrated in Week 1 Term 3. FIRE Carriers to read Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Literature to children in the Foundation classes and at the Assisi Kindergarten. 	Hitchcock and teachers.	2023 & 2024 Term 2 & 3 2023	Planning meeting for NAIDOC Week in Week 5 Term 2 2023.



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Practical Reconciliation & Justice

Focus Area: Walk the Journey together, Put Learnings into Practice

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Measurable Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the Acknowledgement of Country is used at school gatherings, meetings and liturgies. (Teach the Acknowledgement of Country to other students and teachers) Make the Acknowledgement of Country prominent in the school newsletter. Invite parents to become FIRE Carriers. Support Opening the Doors Foundation in Term 2 with celebration of indigenous culture, awareness raising and fundraising. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander prayers at School Assembly to be lead by FIRE Carriers. 	FIRE Carriers – students, Mrs Hitchcock and teachers.	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is Acknowledgement of Country used at school gatherings, meetings and liturgies? Acknowledgement of Country used in class meetings?
	FIRE Carriers – students, Mrs Hitchcock and teachers.	Term 4 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Check newsletter to see if the Acknowledgement of Country prominent in the school newsletter.
	FIRE Carriers – students and Mrs Hitchcock.	Term 4 2023	FIRE Carriers join us for the ceremony and become FIRE Carriers.
	FIRE Carriers – students and Mrs Hitchcock.	Term 2 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening the Doors Foundation is supported with celebration of indigenous culture, awareness raising and fundraising.
	FIRE Carriers – students, Mrs Hitchcock and teachers.	Term 1 2023	

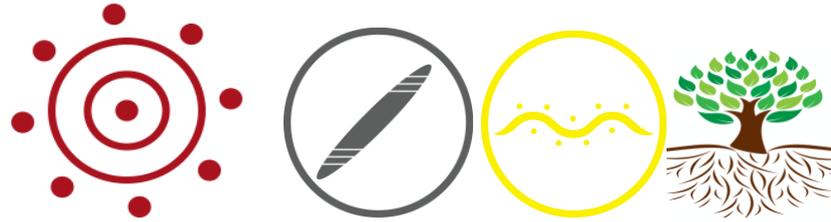


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Ecological Stewardship.

Focus Area: Ecological renewal and sustainability depends upon spiritual awareness and an attitude of responsibility – Caring for country.

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Suggested Measurable Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIRE Carriers to support and contribute to the work in the OASIS program and Catholic Earthcare to promote ecological stewardship. • Invite Dja Dja Wurrung Elders to our school to help us learn more about the history, cultural and ecological significance of the land our school is situated on - the creek and its surrounds for Aboriginal people. • Create a strategic and annual action plan to ensure the ecological stewardship of the land our 	<p>FIRE Carriers – students, Mrs Hitchcock and teachers.</p>	<p>Term 1 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIRE Carriers are supporting and contributing to the work in the OASIS program and Catholic Earthcare to promote ecological stewardship.
	<p>FIRE Carriers – students, Mrs Hitchcock and teachers</p>	<p>Term 2 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIRE Carriers are learning about the history, cultural and ecological significance of the land our school is situated on - the creek and its surrounds for Aboriginal people.
	<p>FIRE Carriers – students, Mrs Hitchcock,</p>	<p>2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for a strategic and annual action plan has begun. • A strategic and annual action plan are in place and being utilised to ensure the ecological stewardship of the land our school is situated on, the creek and its surrounds.



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school is situated on, the creek and its surrounds.	teachers and Mr Moloney.		
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The FIRE Carrier Project is an initiative of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, the Opening the Doors Foundation and the Sandhurst Catholic Education Office, to promote and assist Reconciliation through Education in our Schools.

Our School commits to completing or putting steps in place to complete all Actions through Measurable Targets outlined above by the dates set out in the timeline above. A review at the end of school year will be conducted and the plan will be updated and passed to the following year's FIRE Carrier.