

Koori Kids Outline 2020

Five Dock Public School's Koori Kids program has a vision that all of our Aboriginal students are proud, passionate and have a strong understanding of their Aboriginality.

Our Koori Kids program:

- provides our Aboriginal students with an opportunity to strengthen understanding of their Aboriginality and culture
- links with '*every child known and cared for*' by allowing for relationships of trust and respect to be built amongst all Aboriginal students and teachers
- provides an important space where our Aboriginal students come to and know they are valued, supported and have a strong sense of belonging
- has a direct link to supporting higher engagement and participation in the classroom
- has activities designed to engage students in a creative way that supports reflective and critical thinking
- aims to provide opportunities for Aboriginal students to have pride and confidence in their cultural heritage, encouraging them to share this with the wider school community.

In 2019, Koori Kids began to extend the program to the wider school community through the 'Bring a Buddy' system, where members of Koori Kids bring a buddy from their class to Koori Kids sessions, allowing other students to experience and engage in cultural learning. Additionally, parents and carers of our Aboriginal students have been invited to participate in our 'Cooking and Culture' sessions, supporting the crucial development of building trust, respect and belonging between school and Aboriginal families. This links to Strategic Direction 3 in our school plan.

Our first focus in Koori Kids this year is completing a project involving one of our families. Koori Kids are working on creating totem pole designs to remember Indigenous members of this family, who fought in World War Two. These totem poles will be a permanent installation at Trangie cultural centre.

For the rest of this year, we will be continuing to engage in other cultural activities, such as cooking with Indigenous Ingredients and personal family research projects, which support our Aboriginal students on their journey of discovering and learning more about their Aboriginal culture and heritage.