

Aboriginal Education Policy

Smith's Hill High School is committed to prioritising the educational outcomes and wellbeing of our Aboriginal students. We know that we need to learn about, nurture and value the cultural identity of our Aboriginal students in order to assist them to be successful learners.

We welcome Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family members, parents and community members to our school so that we can get to know each other, learn about the local Aboriginal community and develop shared goals and plans for Aboriginal students. We encourage Aboriginal students to learn how to negotiate and develop strategies by providing unique **leadership opportunities**.

Rationale:

Our goal as a school community is to provide an environment where the recognition and celebration of Aboriginal culture is inherent within all aspects of the school. There exists an intelligent awareness of the issues surrounding Aboriginal education engendering success for all Indigenous students.

Outcomes:

- Performance data of Aboriginal students is equal to or better than the state average for all students.
- Aboriginal students' attendance rates are comparable to the non-Indigenous student population.

Smith's Hill High School Aboriginal Education Coordinator

The coordinator will lead the process of identifying and coordinating the implementation of local actions that will make a difference in Aboriginal student outcomes. The coordinator will maintain strong links with the Illawarra AECG. The Aboriginal Education Coordinator is the 'key' contact person to provide information on Aboriginal education at Smith's Hill High School.

The Aboriginal Education Coordinator will:

- Develop Personal Learning plans (PLP's) for Aboriginal students Year 7 to Year 12, to monitor attendance, goals and aspirations, welfare and academic achievement.
- Identify cohorts of students and monitor their participation in Aboriginal programs and initiatives.
- Ensure that Aboriginal students have access to available Norta Norta funding and support programs and initiatives where required.
- Coordinate appropriate training and development activities for all staff.

Personal Learning Plans:

Smith's Hill High School is committed to working with Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs) it provides an opportunity to increase the engagement of parents/caregivers in student learning. All the parties are involved — teacher, student and parent/caregiver — and all have a direct stake in what is happening. In engaging in a collaborative discussion we are focused on something real and fundamental that is happening now; the individual student's learning. It is an opportunity to collectively develop a plan that will positively influence each student's school performance.

Evaluation:

The Head Teacher Wellbeing will be responsible for evaluating this policy to ensure that it remains relevant. The Head Teacher Wellbeing will make recommendations for any changes.

NSW Government of Education Policy:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/policy-library/policies/aboriginal-education-and-training-policy>