



CEREMONIES POLICY (ANZAC & Remembrance Days)

Rationale

- Schools must hold ceremonies for children to acknowledge their roles as citizens of Australia
 - at intervals and with content determined by the School Council in accordance with Ministerial guidelines
 - using the Australian National Flag.
- Schools must not compel children to recite a declaration or take part in a ceremony if the child or parents/carers object based on religious, cultural, philosophical or other beliefs.
- Schools should commemorate:
 - ANZAC Day, 25 April
 - Remembrance Day, 11 November.
- Schools must fly the Australian National Flag on:
 - days when patriotic ceremonies are conducted
 - national flag days, if the school is open

Important: Except on other special occasions advised by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, flags are only to be flown during normal working hours.

Note: Schools are encouraged to fly the Australian National Flag during school hours, and the Premier has issued instructions that the Australian National Flag and the State Flag should be flown on government and semi-government buildings whenever possible.

- The Australian National Flag, the Aboriginal Flag, the Torres Islander Flag and the State Flag may be flown at schools.

Purpose

- To ensure Footscray North Primary School conducts patriotic ceremonies in accordance with DET policy and guidelines.
- To ensure flags are flown appropriately in accordance with the *Flags Act 1953*.
- To ensure School Council considers the implications of the Child Safe Standards in regard to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children (if applicable).

Implementation

- The School Council will determine which flags will be flown at the school.
- The school will observe the etiquette which gives precedence to the Australian National Flag over other national and state flags. This involves:
 - flying the Australian National Flag on the flagpole to the left of any other flags when a person is facing the building
 - not flying two flags on one pole
- The Australian National Flag should be raised at the beginning of each school day.
- The flag will only be flown between 8.00 am and the close of business unless advised by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.
- If there is a direction to fly the flag at night, the flag must be illuminated.
- If the school is open, an Australian National Flag will be flown on the following national flag days:
 - 1 January to commemorate the anniversary of the establishment of the Commonwealth of Australia
 - 26 January for Australia Day
 - the second Monday in March for Labour Day
 - 25 April for Anzac Day, with flags flown at:
 - half-mast until noon
 - the masthead until the close of business

- the second Monday in June to observe the anniversary of the birth of the Sovereign
- 3 September for National Flag Day to commemorate the first official flying of Australian flags at the Royal Exhibition Buildings in Melbourne on 3 September 1901 and to provide an opportunity for children to reflect on the current flag, its history and future
 - 11 November for Remembrance Day with flags flown at:
 - the masthead from 8.00 am to 10.30 am
 - half-mast from 10.30 am to 11.02 am
 - the masthead from 11.02 am to the close of business
- If determined by School Council policy, if the school is open, other National flags on additional flag poles may be flown on the following days:
 - 21 March for Harmony Day to celebrate Australia's success as a diverse society united as one family by a common set of values
 - 27 May to 3 June for National Reconciliation Week to recognise:
 - 27 May as the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum which successfully removed clauses from the Constitution that discriminated against indigenous Australians
 - 3 June as Eddie Mabo Day, the anniversary of the High Court decision in the Eddie Mabo land rights case of 1992 recognised by Torres Strait Islanders
 - a nominated week in July for NAIDOC Week (National Aboriginal & Islanders' Day Observance Committee) to celebrate and promote greater understanding of Indigenous peoples and culture
 - 1 July for the "Coming of the Light" celebration day for Torres Strait Islanders.
- The school will recognise Anzac Day, Remembrance Day and other occasions determined by the School Council in a manner approved by the Council in accordance with the following:

Aim	Ceremonies should celebrate children's roles as Australian citizens, members of the community and the cultural diversity in Australia Ceremonies should include singing the Australian National Anthem, Advance Australia Fair and acknowledge the symbolic importance of the Australian National Flag alongside other flags including the Australian Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Islander Flag
Ceremony Inclusions	Ceremonies may include the recital by a child of a declaration, such as: Australian Oath of Allegiance Australian Affirmation of Allegiance an oath devised by the school council expressing ideals of citizenship and Celebrating cultural diversity
Planning	Council should: approve the form, declaration and frequency of patriotic ceremonies consider the diversity of cultures and beliefs in the school community ensure that all children can participate in the patriotic ceremony
Review	Patriotic ceremonies should be discussed with children annually to enhance their understanding.

- In order to promote the cultural wellbeing of Aboriginal children, School Council will consider whether 'Acknowledgement of Country' or a similar statement is appropriate for the school. Please refer to the Child Safe Standards.

Evaluation

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (latest DET update mid-December 2018).

This policy was ratified by School Council 25/3/2019

References:

www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/community/Pages/ceremonies.aspx
www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/community/Pages/flags.aspx