



Welcome to and Acknowledgement of Country Policy 2025

Version	Date Review Due	Date Published	Changes Made	Author of Changes
1	2030	May 2025	New Document	JM and Policies committee

1. Introduction

This Policy has been written to align with the core governing principles that determine the strategic direction of Yallingup Steiner School (YSS).

2. Objectives

- a. To acknowledge the Wadandi people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land upon which the school is situated.
- b. To encourage and support the school community to recognise, respect and participate in Aboriginal cultural heritage to improve community relations.
- c. To ensure that all meetings, festivals and gatherings initiated by the school have guidance for when and how to acknowledge Country or extend Welcome to Country.

3. Definitions

Welcome to Country

A Welcome to Country ceremony is a recognition of the rights of First Nations people.

By Invitation of a representative person with traditional connection to a particular place, area or region, there can be an acknowledgement of respect and regard for existing custodians and their ancestors.

A Welcome to Country occurs at the beginning of a formal event and can take many forms as designed by the representative.

Acknowledgement of Country

An Acknowledgement of Country is a way that non-Indigenous people can show respect for Aboriginal heritage and acknowledge the

ongoing relationship that traditional owners have to the land and its waterways.

4. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, Board and committee members responsible for organising events, public functions, ceremonies or meetings on behalf of the school where 'Acknowledgement of Country' or 'Welcome to Country' should be included in official proceedings.

5. Implementation

Welcome to Country – Major school events that may include:

- Major conference or event – regional, statewide or national hosting by the School.
- Opening of a new building
- Annual General Meetings
- Cultural events such as seasonal festivals
- School performances

Acknowledgement of Country – relevant school meetings, events and publications include:

- Board meetings
- Exhibitions and event openings
- School website and significant school publications or policies
- Whole school functions
- School performances
- Formal gatherings, functions or ceremonies.

6. Implications (Financial, Human resources)

When the school is utilising cultural services such as Welcome to Country, Indigenous people are providing intellectual property and should be remunerated appropriately.

Fees will be negotiated with the traditional custodians engaged to provide a Welcome to Country. Financial allocations for Welcome to Country protocols will be included in the school's annual budget.

7. Resources

Undalup Association – www.undalup.com

Kaartdijin Noongar – www.noongarculture.org.au

Southwest Land and Sea Council- www.noongar.com

Reconciliation Australia – www.reconciliation.org.au/

School of Indigenous studies UWA

–www.boojar.sis.uwa.edu.au Karri Karrak –

www.karrikarrak.org.au

Reconciliation WA – www.recwa.org.au

Koomal Dreaming - <https://www.koomaldreaming.com.au/>

Mitchella Hutchins and Vivian Brockman-Webb

www.firstlights.com.au/artists/mitchella-hutchins-vivian-brockman-webb/