

National Reconciliation Week

Let's walk the talk!



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27 May – 3 June

National Reconciliation Week teaching and learning ideas

These teaching and learning ideas are for early childhood, primary and secondary school students. It is up to you as individual teachers to determine how to make the ideas relevant and suitable for your class. Remember these are just a few ideas, have fun trying them and modifying them for your students and context.

Whole school activities

Reconciliation walk

Divide your school into buddy classes (older students with younger ones) and walk through the school grounds, or do a lap around the oval. Play appropriate music during the walk—there are many great songs about reconciliation.

Start or end the walk at your school's flag poles and have some students read out information about the Australian, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. Invite your parents and community members to join staff and students on the reconciliation walk.

Reconciliation quiz

Early Childhood Centres: Fun quiz in multiple choice format using concrete materials or pictures. For example, ask the children to identify the Aboriginal flag from a small selection of flags.

Primary School: Divide classes into year clusters, Years 1 – 2, 3 – 4, 5 – 6 and provide a quiz with age appropriate questions. The cluster with the highest scores can be acknowledged with a certificate or award at a school assembly.

Secondary School: For Years 7 – 12 conduct the quiz during home class. Schools can award prizes for classes with most correct answers in each year level.

Compile your quiz questions from the factsheets found on Reconciliation Australia's Share Our Pride website at shareourpride.org.au. Seek sponsorship of prizes and awards from local businesses.

Walk the talk school and community

activities

Go to walkthetalk.org.au/activity-zone/ for additional fun interactive activities regarding taking action for improving our collective reconciliation journey.

Walk the talk map of Australia

Create a Walk the Talk map of Australia. Have students sketch out the map and paint in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander colours. Then overlay with footprints to show significant places and historical milestones. Look at the reconciliation timelines in the resources section on the reconciliation.org.au/nrw and shareourpride.org.au websites for ideas. Display the finished artwork in your school, or local community establishment.

Illustrating history and stories

Invite a local Elder to come in and tell a story about their connection to country, and the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history of the area in which your school is situated. Let students use art and craft to recount the Elder's story or pick out an important event to illustrate. Bind all the artwork together and create a big book of the students' pictures adding relevant text.

Travelling story—walkabout

On paper shaped as footprints (or large feet), start a story about reconciliation in one classroom and let the story grow and continue throughout the school going from class to class. Each class adds to the previous class' part. When the whole story is finished, display the full story in the front foyer of the school for parents to see or on display boards in the library or corridor for all students to read, and present the story to the entire school at an assembly.

Speech bubbles

Use big speech bubble cut-outs on coloured cardboard to allow students to record their thoughts on what they pledge to do to Walk the Talk! Take photos of some of the great pledges and post them on your school's website. Teachers in early childhood centres can scribe for their students.

Walking footprint bookmarks

Get every student and teacher to make a personalised bookmark by using their footprint. Either trace around feet or make a footprint with coloured paint on paper. Write a personal message about reconciliation onto the footprint and laminate and cut out.

Our next most powerful step for reconciliation

Ask students across the school "What reconciliation means to me?", or "What *Let's Walk the Talk* means for our school?", or "What can we do as a school to put words into actions?".

