



YOUR SURVEY RESPONSES



There are no “right” or “wrong” answers to the questions on the [self-assessment survey \(p.16\)](#), [SWOT analysis \(p.14\)](#), or [KWL \(p.15\)](#) reflective activities. Rather, they are designed to help you and your school understand the complexity of engaging with First Nations peoples, cultures and knowledges within the framework of the colonial, Western schooling system. Understanding this will help you think through how to navigate this complex space and work through any challenges that may arise along the way. Each school environment and each First Nations community is diverse and therefore the needs and priorities of this work may look different in each community and school.

For example, when working with a school staff who have had very little prior experience engaging with Aboriginal people or knowledges, the professional learning aspect to build up their prior knowledge will be a key component to making a school more culturally safe, before contemplating engagement of a Cultural Educator.

Similarly, a demographic of students and families from non-Australian language backgrounds other than English may be at a different place in their knowledge and understanding of the relevance of First Nations cultural knowledge than families who have been in Australia for a long time. But this should not be a deterrent to engaging your school on this journey – all students in Australia are living and learning on First Nations land, and have a role to play in both Reconciliation and in caring for Country.

In all actions you or your school undertakes in engaging a Cultural Educator, the building and maintaining of relationships must always be front and centre. These relationships exist between the school and community, but those macro-level relationships are made up of relationships between individuals involved. **At times, your individual relationships and institutional or community responsibilities may be at odds. This is the nature of the complexity of this space, and is something to acknowledge and work through, rather than a reason to disengage from the work.**



MASCOT PUBLIC SCHOOL

