



Dear Parents, Caregivers and the Greenmount Community,

Greenmount Primary School respectfully acknowledges the Noongar traditional custodians of the lands where our school is situated, the Whadjak people. We respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to our community.

Purpose

The purpose of this letter is to inform our School Community of a recent change in the branding of Greenmount Primary School, specifically regarding the wording: “at Blackboy Hill”. The change was ratified by the School Board, chaired by Mr Jason Russell.

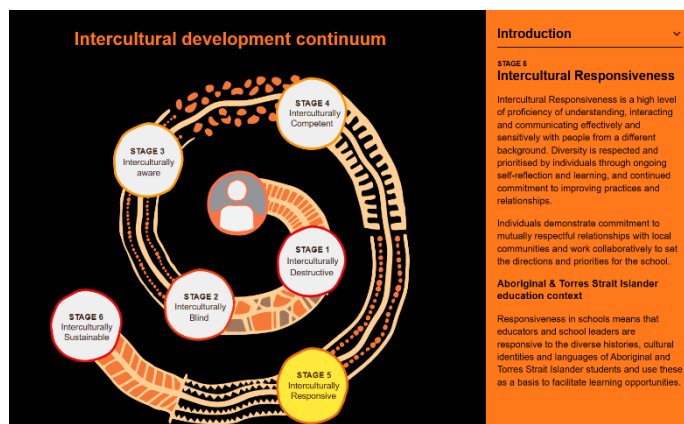
The changes will affect:

- The school crest (“at Blackboy Hill” will become our school motto “Learning Side By Side”)
- The school song lyrics (“on Blackboy Hill” will become “upon the hill”)
- The ‘Blackboy Hill’ medallion (to be decided)

Background

As a Culturally Responsive School, Greenmount PS is highly committed to supporting the needs of our students and the School Community. We align our planning with the AITSL Standards for Teachers and the Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework.

The AITSL Standards provide us with a framework of support for [building the culturally responsive capacity of our educators](#). The [Aboriginal Cultural Standards Framework](#) provides us with performance descriptors, indicators and a continuum so that we may constantly evaluate our cultural responsiveness as a school. We also utilise other tools for reconciliation and cultural responsiveness such as the [AITSL Intercultural Development Continuum](#).



At Greenmount Primary School we aim to develop a “high level of proficiency of understanding, interacting, and communicating effectively and sensitively with people from a different background. Diversity is respected and prioritised by individuals through ongoing self-reflection and learning, and continued commitment to improving practices and relationships.”



Greenmount Primary School

Learning side by side

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After deliberate reflection and deep consideration of the school's cultural responsiveness, the Leadership Team determined that a change may be needed to the branding of the school. The use of the derogatory term 'Blackboy Hill' in our branding does not align with our school's vision for reconciliation and cultural responsiveness.

In addition to this, calls from the community to change the wording in our branding have recently been formalised in written emails from parents at our school, teachers, and members of the wider community. As a culturally responsive school, we ensure that our community is heard and respected.

With the evident need for the issue of branding to be addressed, the Leadership Team prepared a change proposal for the School Board. The proposal included a new design for the school crest and a suggestion for changing the lyrics of the school song. The proposal also included researched history of the school crest and its origin.

Greenmount PS staff are deeply committed to preserving our historical connection to the ANZACs who trained on our school site. The crest itself was based on the WA Rifles badge which was found by a community member in 1967. In 1973 the badge became our school crest with some changes.

Current Emblem Linked to Badge

Badge of the 44th Battalion (1916) from which the Greenmount Primary School Emblem was taken.

The current emblem is based off this medal, which uses the similar badge style, wreath design, xanthorrhoea tree and ribbon.

Crown:
Link to the monarchy.

Laurel Wreath:
Awarded to military commanders who were victors of great battles. A symbol of honour and victory, in modern times it has become a symbol of achievement and success.

Xanthorrhoea:
Grass tree seen on the site.

In Hoc Signo Vinces:
"In this sign thou shalt conquer"
A motto used by Constantine the Great of a vision he saw before battle.



Current School Emblem



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The proposal of a modified crest submitted to the School Board only changes the wording “at Blackboy Hill” to “Learning Side by Side”, the school motto. With this modification, the crest continues to maintain our connection to the ANZACs.

The outcome of the School Board meeting held in March 2023 (minutes available on the school website) was the following:

- The Board agreed that a change in the branding of the school was necessary in order to align with Department of Education / AITSL Frameworks
- The Board agreed that it was necessary for “at Blackboy Hill” to be changed on the school crest/logo
- The Board agreed that changes should be made to the Greenmount Primary school song so that the words “at Blackboy Hill” are not included

All members at the Board contributed information regarding the branding of the school, the history of the crest, the history of the faction names and the connection the school has to the ANZACs. In addition to the modification of the crest, other lines of inquiry for cultural responsiveness were discussed by the Board.

If you have any questions regarding the branding change to our school, please contact the Administration Team at the school.

Kind regards,

The Administration Team