

# House Culture

Fostering a sense of belonging for our young people



**Brighton  
Secondary  
School**

Our house system plays an important role in improving student connectedness and engagement in the classroom and school community. In 2022, to help support our growing community, we expanded our house system from 4 houses to 6. This was designed to foster a sense of belonging for young people in our school by providing a smaller community within the school for them to connect with. The names and colours of the new houses were developed through extensive student voice processes, which decided that the houses would be named using Kaurna words for flora, fauna and landforms to respect and honour the Kaurna land that we live and learn on. The 2021 Prefect team worked with school leaders, Kaurna Warra Pintyanthi (KWP) and Adelaide University to ensure cultural appropriateness and respect. In 2023, students worked with Lawson Dodd, a Kaurna, Narungga and Ngarrindjeri artist, and Ochre Dawn to create an artwork that represents each of the houses



In each year level, there are two home groups from each house. Throughout the year, student House Captains plan and run a range of inter-house competitions and events, and all students can earn points for their house by participating. Students can also be awarded house points by staff for demonstrating our school values, participating in lunchtime clubs, activities or school sport, and for academic achievement. The winning house is awarded the prestigious House Shield at our end of year ASPIRE assembly.

## Indigenous Perspectives

The artwork on our PE tops was designed by a group of our Aboriginal students, who worked with proud Warumungu and Yuggera man and artist, David Booth. David taught the students about the significance of Aboriginal art and how it is used to tell stories. The students used this new knowledge to make a design that tells a story about the Brighton Secondary School community.

The artwork is called “Living and Learning on Kaurna Land”. The story of the artwork represents the 6 house groups that compete every year at Brighton Secondary School on Kaurna country. The centre circle and U shapes represent the school and students competing. The lines linked to the group symbols are their connections to the groups. The outer U shapes represent family and supporters, the footprints are their journeys and the kangaroo and emu tracks represent moving forwards continuously. The lines with dots indicate rain on country and the regrowth of plants and handprints of the students shows their connection with the land, water and our ancestors. Aboriginal people hold a deep connection to country and have looked after country for thousands of years.

