



ENGLISH

POLICY

Rationale:

- Active and effective participation in Australian society depends on the ability to speak, listen, read, view and write with confidence, purpose and enjoyment. The study of English, and the broader concept of literacy, is about the appropriate and effective use of language, the use of language as a means of learning and the development of knowledge about language.

Aims:

The English program aims to develop in students:

- the ability to speak, listen, read, and write effectively with confidence, purpose and enjoyment
- a knowledge of the ways in which language varies according to context, purpose, audience and content, and the capacity to apply this knowledge
- a knowledge of the linguistic patterns used to construct different texts, and the capacity to apply this knowledge, especially in writing
- a broad knowledge of a range of texts and a capacity to relate this to aspects of contemporary society and personal experience
- the capacity to discuss and analyse texts and language critically
- a knowledge of the ways textual interpretation and understanding may vary according to cultural, social and personal differences, and the capacity to develop reasoned arguments about interpretation and meaning.

Implementation:

- The English domain is an essential component of the Discipline-based Learning Strand of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.
- All students at our school will study a sequential English course based upon the learning focus statements contained within the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.
- All teachers are required to work with their respective teams or sections to develop and implement a joint English course for all students based on VELS.
- Student's individual abilities must be monitored using standardised assessment tasks and learning opportunities must be provided that cater for the identified needs of each student.
- Student progress in all dimensions of English will be reported in half year and end of year academic reports, as well as be reported in the school's annual report.
- Literacy Support will be available for students identified as 'at risk'
- English study for each student will be not less than 10 hours per week, consisting of 5x2 hour uninterrupted literacy blocks time.
- The DIPL Program will form part of the literacy block.
- In class English activities will reflect the integrated topics being studied at school, and will be appropriate to each child's ability.
- A staff member will be allocated the responsibility for coordinating English across the school as well as implementing an English budget developed by staff and resourced by school council.
- The school will provide daily take-home books to complement and enrich the class reading program.
- A twenty minute oral language program will be undertaken daily.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in November 2008.