

LANGUAGES

POLICY

Rationale:

- Languages other than English contribute materially to the universal purposes of schooling and to the development of skills in thinking and reflection. They support the moral, social and economic initiation of young people into the culture and wider civilisation that surrounds them. Learning a language nurtures reflective, deep and creative thinking in specific ways, cultivates culturally distinctive fields of knowledge, and stimulates awareness of intellectual functioning.

Aims:

- In learning a language, students aim to develop communication skills and knowledge and come to understand social, historical, familial relationships and other aspects of the specific language and culture of the speakers of the language they are studying.
- Learners are also provided with the tools, through comparison and reflection, to understand language, culture and humanity in a broad sense.
- In this way, language learning contributes to the development of interculturally aware citizens, of increasing importance at a time of rapid and deep globalisation.

Implementation:

- The learning of Languages other than English is an essential learning area of the Australian Curriculum.
- All Foundation to Year 6 students at our school will study a sequential Languages course based upon the content descriptions contained within the Australian Curriculum.
- The language selected for our school is Italian, and a specialist teacher is employed to coordinate and deliver the program across the school.
- Student's individual abilities will be measured and reported against the expected Australian Curriculum achievement standards, particularly at the commencement of each unit of work, and learning opportunities must be provided that cater for the identified needs of each student.
- Student progress in Languages will be reported in half and end of year academic reports.
- Languages study for each student will be not less than 2 hours per week. This is delivered through a formal one hour lesson with our specialist teacher, and language integration throughout the day in cross-curricular activities as appropriate.
- The Language program is valued and promoted across the school through acknowledgements at assembly, display walls, special event days.
- Budgets that provide for the needs of the Languages program will be developed by the Languages coordinator in consultation with all staff members and resourced by school council.

Evaluation:

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

This policy was last ratified by School Council on....

November 2014