



# Fish Creek & District Primary School English Policy

## **Rationale:**

The study of English is central to the learning and development of all young Australians. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens. It is through the study of English that individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate with and build relationships with others and with the world around them. The study of English helps young people develop the knowledge and skills needed for education, training and the workplace.

## **Aims:**

To enable children to:

- effectively listen, speak, view, read and write a range of texts including everyday texts, literature and electronic texts
- understand the ways that language varies according to its author, context, audience and purpose
- master the linguistic structures and features of English
- use appropriate strategies to comprehend and produce texts.
- enjoy and develop critical appreciation of spoken, written and electronic texts
- address identified improvement areas with strategies in the School Strategic Plan and the Annual Implementation Plan
- nurture an interest in and enjoyment of the English language and literature

## **Implementation:**

- All students at our school will study a sequential English course. This course is based upon the AusVELS English Learning Area
- The English course represents expected development and is designed to allow differentiation for all students. The English course will include continua of development for reading, writing, and spelling.
- Students' learning needs will be met by identifying their current level of achievement on learning continua and supported with new learning.
- Students will participate in a daily, two-hour Literacy Block, focusing on reading and writing.
- Teachers will incorporate literature as part of their English program to develop an appreciation, awareness and enjoyment of the English language.
- The main teaching methodologies for reading will include Language Experience, Modelled, Shared and Guided Reading. (Readers Workshop)
- The main teaching methodologies for writing will include Modelled, Shared, Interactive, Guided and Independent Writing. (Writers Workshop, VCOP and the Big Write)
- Daily spelling sessions will be devoted to the five key spelling strategies and will include explicit teaching.
- Students will be explicitly taught the Linguistic Structures and Features of English using resources including CARS and STARS, VCOP and the Big Write, Guided Thinking for Effective Spelling.
- Speaking and Listening will be incorporated into the two-hour Literacy Block.
- Oral language programs and speech therapy will be provided to support students with additional needs.
- Teachers will work regularly with small groups and individuals to address specific learning needs.
- Student progress will be monitored to ensure every child is challenged and supported to achieve their potential.
- Teaching staff will be involved in Professional Learning, peer observation and feedback to develop their knowledge and skills.
- NAPLAN data will be analysed and explicitly planned for to address areas of concern. Professional learning will be used to improve areas of concern.
- Teachers will develop a Term Planner outlining their focus for each week of teaching, including any assessment required from the school assessment schedule.

- Planning for English will be conceptually based to allow differentiation and a spiralling curriculum as per the School Strategic Plan.
- Individual Learning Plans will be developed for students working 12 months below or above the expected level.
- Student progress will be monitored and documented using the school assessment calendar, Central Assessment File, and student assessment folders.
- A staff member will be allocated as the English Coordinator and oversee the school's English course, facilitate PLT (Professional Learning Team) meetings, organise resources, and promote and co-ordinate special English activities. In consultation with staff, the Coordinator will manage the English budget to provide for the needs of the program.
- To engage students and to cater for differing learning styles and Multiple Intelligences, the classroom program will include a variety of teaching and learning experiences.
- Parent participation, at home and at school, will be encouraged.

## RESOURCES

- Schonell Spelling Test
- CARS and STARS
- Oxford 400 word list
- First Steps
- Reading Eggs
- VCOP and The Big Write
- The Australian Student Friendly Criterion Scale
- Guiding Thinking for Effective Spelling (Christine Topfer and Deirdre Arendt)

This policy was last ratified by School Council on	12/08/14	Review Date	2017
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