

EARLY YEARS LITERACY

POLICY

Rationale:

- The establishment of sound and well developed literacy skills at an early age have been demonstrated as essential to future student learning. Students who leave the early years of schooling unable to read or write effectively, make little gain in the later years.

Aims:

- To provide a program that ensures all students can read and write effectively by the time they graduate from year four.

Implementation:

- Our school has consistently identified early years literacy as a whole school priority and have undertaken to be involved in the DE&T Early Years program, including the development and implementation of an approved 3 year Early Years literacy plan for all classes from prep to year four.
- The school will appoint a trained Early Years coordinator who is required to oversee and coordinate all aspects of the program, provide support and direction to others when needed, and organise professional development as required. The coordinator will be free of other teaching and administrative responsibilities in order to carry out this task.
- The school will provide an uninterrupted 2-hour literacy block for all participating classes.
- Reading Recovery will be provided for all year 1 students who require reading assistance.
- A literacy aide will be maintained to assist students requiring other literacy support, and all teaching aides will be provided with Early Years literacy training.
- Appropriate professional development will be made available for all participating staff.
- 'Making Connections' and 'Developing Literacy Partnerships' professional development programs will be offered to parents, parent helpers and all teaching and integration aides.
- An assessment schedule consistent with Early Years requirements will be developed and implemented, with minimum achievement standards and targets being set for all students in reading. Running records will be a feature of classroom programs as a means to monitoring student achievement.
- Assessment data will be collected and analysed as required, with the results being used to monitor performance, as well as to drive program development and delivery.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the Early Years Literacy Plan, and as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

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

June 2004