

MIDDLE YEARS

POLICY

Rationale:

- The period of adolescence that coincides with the middle years of schooling (Years 5-9) represents a critical phase of development in students' lives. For a significant number of students this period of rapid emotional, physical and intellectual development often coincides with a lack of engagement at schools, underachievement and feelings of disenchantment with the education system. In order to address this issue, schools must reconsider their current position and work collaboratively to develop strategies which cater for the needs of all students undertaking the middle years of schooling.

Aims:

- To redesign our approach to schooling in the middle years so as to maximise student engagement, achievement and enjoyment.

Implementation:

- Our school recognises the issues relating to underperformance and disengagement of some students during the middle years of schooling, and has given an undertaking to address the problem.
- It is further recognised that success in this project relies upon strong partnerships and professional relationships being developed with local secondary schools, secondary teachers and middle years coordinators.
- The principal will appoint a middle years coordinator who will be responsible for coordinating the middle years project.
- Our school will be an active participant in the local middle years 'Innovations & Excellence' cluster with primary and secondary schools to strategically respond to middle years issues.
- The strategic plan will be consistent with the DE&T requirements, and will reflect key DE&T documents such as *'The Middle Years – A Guide to Strategic Action in Years 5-9'*.
- Data derived from the MYRAD project, as well as experiences of other 'Innovations and Excellence' clusters will provide additional planning input and direction.
- Progress through all phases of the plan will be signposted, assessed, benchmarked and reported as required.
- Staff members involved in teaching students in the middle years are required to carry out all aspects of the strategic plan.
- A budget will be allocated by the cluster to assist in the implementation of the middle years strategy. Additional funds will be provided by school council to the middle years project, including funds for professional development as required.
- The community will be kept informed of the project's progress.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the school's regular review cycle, while the middle years project strategic plan will be reviewed and progress reported as required by DE&T.

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

June 2004