



# CURRICULUM LAUNCHING PLACE POLICY

## **RATIONALE**

Schools use a range of curriculum options, all in-line with AusVELS, to develop and provide education programs that are meaningful for students. At Launching Place Primary School our 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum presents students with the opportunity to develop deep understandings on a range of concepts throughout their school lives. Our broad curriculum is planned and taught sequentially and allows students to have some ownership in all aspects of their learning. It is designed to develop thinking and social skills, foster engagement with the wider community and include use of a wide variety of technology to assist in their learning. To support the delivery of the curriculum at Launching Place Primary School, we access and select a wide range of suitable educational resources to support the curriculum taught, set homework that enhances classroom learning and undertake a range of student assessment and reporting activities to support student learning.

## **AIMS**

To implement a dynamic curriculum program that:

- Is compliant with DET policies and based on AusVELs and/or the Australian Curriculum
- <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/curriculum/Pages/default.aspx>
- Is engaging and relevant and enables students to develop deep levels of knowledge, processes and skills for life-long learning
- Is differentiated in approaches to teaching, catering for the needs of students with a range of interests, abilities, skills, and motivation
- Provides opportunities for students to think, reflect and become independent, resourceful and adaptable learners
- Enables students to interact with other students and the wider community.

## **GUIDELINES**

**The Curriculum Policy replaces all previous policies for AusVELS subjects.**

This policy works in conjunction with the Assessment and Reporting and Homework policies.

The Principal has the overall responsibility for the implementation of curriculum at the school. Aspects of this role can be delegated to other staff members who will work in conjunction with the principal in developing curriculum delivery and programs. Professional Learning Teams will be formed to develop specific curriculum areas and provide advice to the staff as a whole.

The curriculum taught at Launching Place Primary School will encompass all the areas in AusVELS, which includes the Australian Curriculum (<sup>AC</sup>). The domains are:

<b>Physical Personal &amp; Social Learning</b>	<b>Discipline-Based Learning</b>	<b>Interdisciplinary Learning</b>
Civics & Citizenship	The Arts	Communication
Health & Physical Education	English <sup>AC</sup>	Design Creativity & Technology
Personal Learning	The Humanities	Information & Communication Technologies
Interpersonal Development	The Humanities- History <sup>AC</sup>	Thinking Processes
	The Humanities- Geography	
	The Humanities-Economics	
	Languages	
	Mathematics <sup>AC</sup>	
	Science <sup>AC</sup>	

Cross Curricular Learning in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia and Sustainability spans across many curriculum areas.

See <http://ausvels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/> for more detailed information about AusVELS.

The school will ensure that it has a comprehensive budget to support curriculum programs. Budget requests will be formulated by program leaders in October before the next school year. These will be compiled by the Principal and discussed in the Finance Sub Committee Meeting. Indicative Budgets must be approved by School Council prior to the school year. Program Leaders are strongly encouraged to expend curriculum budgets in first and second terms of the school year.

Each term, teams will produce a curriculum planning document (Curriculum Overview) detailing the learning focuses of the term. This will include references to AusVELS and/or Australian Curriculum.

A range of current DET teaching and instructional models will be referred to in curriculum planning documents. This could include the Principles of Learning and Teaching (POLT)

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/support/pages/teaching.aspx>

and the e<sup>5</sup> instructional model <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/proflearning/e5/default.htm>

The teaching of literacy and numeracy will be an integral component in all curriculum planning and delivery.

ICT will be an integral component in curriculum planning, embedded in every day learning, and used as a tool to enhance the delivery and implementation of programs.

The school will offer a range of specialist programs to deliver various curriculum programs such as , Physical Education, Science, Japanese and Visual Art and Performing Arts. These will be offered depending on school/DET priorities; access to qualified teaching staff; and timetable provisions.

The school will use the Inquiry Approach focusing on knowledge, understandings and skills. The whole school program ensures students are given the opportunity to investigate a broad range of subjects, drawn from AusVELS, across the Science and Humanities Discipline Based Learning Domains. The curriculum is progressive and different focuses are studied in each level team.

Inquiry learning will encompass learning in all the domains in AusVELS over the school year.

A range of DET programs will support curriculum delivery in the school. These include English as an Additional Language (EAL), the Additional Support Program, Gifted Education (LEAP), ESL New Arrivals Program, Drug Education, and the Program For Students with Disabilities.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/needs/Pages/disabilityprogram.aspx>

Further information <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/default.aspx>

A range of teaching resources will be accessed when developing curriculum programs. The school will ensure that teaching and learning resources balance the need to provide challenging and engaging learning programs for students with the use of materials that do not offend students and the wider community due to their obscene, highly offensive or overly controversial nature. Teaching and learning resources include any spoken, written or visual text or activity used or conducted by schools such as text books , novels , films , plays , radio programs , multimedia , digital learning resources including video, audio, text, animations and images , lectures , speeches and performances. Teaching resources can be commercial products or those accessed on the DET website, FUSE.

Please see: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/default.htm> for more information.

and for Fuse: <https://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/pages/Teacher.aspx>

A comprehensive assessment schedule will be devised and implemented to support assessment of student learning (See Assessment Schedule).

The school will offer excursions and/or incursions to compliment the curriculum. Generally, two excursions and two incursions will be organised per year. Other experiences, such as camps, sporting programs, extension activities will also be offered.

The school will engage with affiliations to assist in curriculum planning and delivery e.g. Peta – Primary English Teachers Association.

Special school events and days will be celebrated at the school to enhance curriculum programs. For example, Science Week, Education Week, Harmony Day, Book Week, Japanese Day, Literacy & Numeracy Week.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

*Special provisions for particular curriculum areas are detailed below:*

### **English:**

- English learning should encompass the modes of Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening as outlined in AusVELS.
- It is expected that between 9-11 hours of literacy be scheduled per week. This can include integrating literacy teaching across other areas of learning.
- The school-wide approach to literacy is based on the CAFÉ model, from foundation to grade 6. This involves the teaching of explicit strategies in mini-lessons, time for students to practise the strategy taught and one-on-one conferencing to constantly revise students' personal goals.

### **Mathematics**

- Mathematics teaching should encompass the areas of Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Statistics and Probability as outlined in AusVELS.
- It is expected that between 4-5 hours of numeracy be scheduled per week. This could be integrated across other areas of learning.
- The Key Characteristics of Effective Numeracy Teaching should be used as a guide to plan numeracy teaching <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/litnum/default.htm#2>

### **Science/Inquiry**

- Science teaching should encompass the strands of Science Understanding, Science as a Human Endeavor and Science Inquiry Skills. Across a two-year cycle, all levels will cover the four areas of science: Biological, Chemical, Physical and Earth and Space.
- Science lessons are heavily based on the Primary Connections program, following the 5Es model, and aligned to AusVELS.
- Two Science Specialist teachers operate in this school with a greater depth and understanding of the Science curriculum and are on hand for assistance with content understanding and resourcing science lessons.
- Humanity subjects (History, Geography and Economics) are included in our Integrated Unit Scope and Sequence alongside science units. Within a two-year cycle, students will investigate the humanity subjects in accordance with AusVELS.
- Science/Inquiry subjects are regularly integrated within other curriculum areas such as Literacy and the Arts but also have dedicated time for focusing understandings and skills.
- It is expected that between 2-3 hours of inquiry be scheduled per week. This could be integrated across other areas of learning.

### **Health & Physical Education**

- In accordance with DET policy, Launching Place Primary School will mandate the following times to Physical Education:
  - Foundation – 4 – 45 minutes specialist session each week
    - \*\*an additional 30 minutes of the Perceptual Motor Program *PMP* for Foundation – year 2 students
    - \*\* an additional 60 minutes of Year's 3/4 Sport
  - Years 5/6: 3 hours per week of health, physical education and sport with 45mins for specialist physical education.
- The school will be a member of the Upper Yarra Sports Association.
- The school will participate in the sport events summer sport, winter sport, athletics, cross-country and swimming.
- The Swimming Program will run annually for students from Foundation-2.

- The Physical Education Program will be supplemented by outside sporting associations who may run clinics in Physical Education sessions to support the development of specific sporting skills.
- The school will have a whole school approach to Health Education, including Life Education. Other health related topics that the school will cover include Healthy Eating, Sexual Education (Family Life), Student Wellbeing (e.g. School Values, Restorative Practices). For more information see <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/health/Pages/default.aspx>
- In accordance with DET policy the school must provide effective drug education consistent with the national *Principles for School Drug Education* and should deliver 10 hours of drug education per year level, per year. This could be integrated into other learning programs offered by the school.

### **SRI - Religious Education**

- In accordance to DET policy and Section 2.2.11 of the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (the Act) Launching Place Primary School should offer Religious Education. The Act makes the following distinctions. It defines:
  - General religious education as ‘education about major forms of religious thought and expression characteristic of Australian society and other societies in the world
  - Special religious instruction (SRI) as ‘instruction provided by churches and other religious groups and based on distinctive religious tenets and beliefs.’
- Any SRI delivered should be provided during the hours set aside for the instruction of students.
- Persons providing SRI must be accredited representatives of churches or religious groups and who are approved by the Minister for the purpose.
- Attendance at SRI is not to be compulsory for any student whose parents desire that he or she be excused from attending.
- The Principal must:
  - Ensure all SRI instructors are qualified and have a Working with Children Check, registration and training. The Department engages two major organisations to administer the accreditation and approval of religious instructors. They are ACCESS Ministries and World Conference of Religions for Peace. The Catholic Education Office/Diocese and United Jewish Education Board also accredit religious instructors in their respective faiths.
  - Arrange for the provision of SRI where an accredited and approved instructor is available
  - Schedule SRI in the school timetable (usually 30 minutes per week) when accredited and approved instructors are available
  - Ensure appropriate supervision for students who attend SRI
  - Ensure that students who do not attend SRI are appropriately supervised by teachers and engaged in positive learning
  - Ensure core curriculum is not delivered to non-attendees during the period of SRI
  - Request and retain a copy of the instructor’s formal accreditation in the school’s records
 Visit: <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/pages/religious.aspx> for more information.

### **E Learning**

- At Launching Place Primary School it is a priority to include ICT across the whole school curriculum.
- There is an expectation that all Level Teams will have ICT as an integral component in curriculum planning, embedded in every day learning, and used as a tool to enhance the delivery and implementation of programs.
- See <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/support/pages/planning.aspx> for more information

### **Language - Japanese**

- According to DET policy, schools must provide tuition in languages from Prep to Year 10 by a suitable qualified teacher and report student achievement from Level 4 onwards.
- Launching Place Primary School offers Japanese across all levels.

### **ACHIEVEMENT MEASURES**

- AusVELS student achievement data
- Student, staff and parent opinion surveys
- Specialist Timetable
- Term Level Programs and Planners
- Parent Planners
- Weekly Work programs

### **1. EVALUATION**

This policy will be reviewed as part of a 3 year review in the context of the School Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan. The Curriculum Policy shall be reviewed as part of the school's policy review process by the Education Sub-Committee of School Council.

This was ratified by School Council in 2014.

***Review Date: June 2017***