

Katunga Primary School

School Policy Document

English

Rationale:

Active and effective participation in Australian society depends on the ability to speak, listen, read, view and write with confidence, purpose and enjoyment. The study of English, and the broader concept of literacy, is about the appropriate and effective use of language, the use of language as a means of learning and the development of knowledge about language.

Aims:

The English program aims to develop in students:

- the ability to speak, listen, read, and write effectively with confidence, purpose and enjoyment
- a knowledge of the ways in which language varies according to context, purpose, audience and content, and the capacity to apply this knowledge
- a knowledge of the linguistic patterns used to construct different texts, and the capacity to apply this knowledge, especially in writing
- a broad knowledge of a range of texts and a capacity to relate this to aspects of contemporary society and personal experience
- the capacity to discuss and analyse texts and language critically
- a knowledge of the ways textual interpretation and understanding may vary according to cultural, social and personal differences, and the capacity to develop reasoned arguments about interpretation and meaning.

Implementation:

- All students at our school will study a sequential English course based upon the outcomes contained within the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS).
- All teachers will be provided with a personal copy of 'curriculum@work' and are required to work with their respective teams to develop and implement a joint English course for all students. Students in all infant classes will be involved in the Early Years literacy program.
- Student's individual abilities must be monitored using formal measurements including School Entry Assessment (SEA) tests, running records etc, and learning opportunities must be provided that cater for the identified needs of each student.
- Reading Recovery will be available for all students who require it.
- Student progress in all strands of English will be reported in half and end of year academic reports, as well as be reported in the school's annual report.
- English study for each student will be not less than 10 hours per week, consisting on 5 x 2 hour uninterrupted literacy blocks time-tabled for the first 2 hours of each school day.
- English activities that reflect the topics being studied at school, and are appropriate to each child's ability, will form a regular component of each student's homework regime.
- A staff member will be allocated the responsibility for coordinating English across the school as well as implementing an English budget developed by staff and resourced by school council

Evaluation:

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