

# ENGLISH

## THE BASIN P.S. POLICY

### Rationale

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
- a lifelong connection and enjoyment of reading

### 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 access to VELS and to The Basin P.S. English Program, developed in 2008.
- All teachers are required to work with their respective teams to achieve high standards in their classroom program.
- All Year levels will provide a Literacy program based on the Early Years Literacy program model.
- Learning opportunities must be provided that cater for the identified needs of each student.

- Student's individual abilities must be monitored using formal measurements such as the School Based Entry Assessment tests, ACER tests, running records etc.
- Reading Recovery will be available for students in Year 1 on a priority basis.
- Student progress in all Dimensions of English will be reported in half and end of year academic reports to parents, 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, where possible consisting of 5 x 2 hour uninterrupted literacy blocks time-tabled for the first 2 hours of each school day.
- A staff member/s 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.
- Where possible additional support will be provided to students who are 'at risk' in English.

### **Evaluation**

A bi-annual review will be conducted by the Principal in consultation with the School Council.

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

Prepared by: Education Committee

Approval Date: 20<sup>th</sup> October, 2008

Review Date: October, 2011

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Principal)

\_\_\_\_\_ (School Council President)