



## MOONEE PONDS WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL ENGLISH POLICY

### **BASIC BELIEFS:**

- All students are able to learn language and go through recognisable stages of language development.
- Language is basic to learning in all curriculum areas. It is the primary medium through which we understand the world and through which culture is transmitted and is constantly evolving.
- Listening, speaking, reading and writing are inter-related and inter-dependent.
- Students start school with varying levels of language development and build upon their prior knowledge to reach their goals.
- The quality of language is dependent upon the breadth and depth of experiences available to the student, through both real life experiences and structured learning situations.
- Language is best learnt when it is whole (not broken into component parts), meaningful and relevant to the students.
- Students develop language via Cambourne's Conditions of Learning (immersion, demonstration, engagement, expectation, responsibility, approximation, employment and response).
- Students formulate their own generalisations about language by imitating others, a process of experimentation and through directed investigations.

### **AIMS**

#### ***The English program aims to develop in students:***

- A desire and willingness to listen, speak, write and read for a range of purposes and contexts to enable them to relate to others and the world around them.
- The ability to become competent, independent and enthusiastic readers, writers, speakers and viewers.
- A love of literature.
- The ability to think critically and be able to discuss, compare, analyse, justify and respond to texts and language through speaking, writing, reading and viewing.
- The ability to be text 'Decoders', 'Participants', 'Users' and 'Analysts'.
- An understanding of the distinctive text structure and language features of text types, e.g. information report, still/moving images, via a range of experimentation, investigations and explicit teaching.

### **GUIDELINES FOR ACTION**

#### ***To develop all aspects of language by:***

- Ensuring all students at Moonee Ponds West Primary School are offered a sequential program which caters for the individual learning needs of the student and follows curriculum guidelines.
- Providing a learning environment rich in experiences that scaffold students' learning.
- Ensuring that reading and writing, speaking and listening arise from the on-going experiences of the student.
- Providing flexible organisation which is necessary to cater for the individual needs of all students.
- Providing opportunities for students to reflect upon experiences in a variety of ways - individually, in large groups, small groups, in pairs and with the teacher/adult.
- Providing authentic contexts in literacy, i.e. ensuring language has a real purpose and is for a real audience.
- Providing a caring, supportive school climate in which students are encouraged to take risks and can experiment with language, moving towards conventional language.
- Providing a range of language models, including print, digital, media, moving images and visual models.
- Inter-relating the areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing and viewing and integrating where relevant to the Inquiry Unit.
- Integrating all areas of the curriculum to ensure students learn and use language throughout the day.
- Providing opportunities for all students to be text 'Decoders', 'Participants', 'Users' and 'Analysts'.
- Providing assistance where required to support those students identified with additional needs.
- Ensuring individual abilities are monitored using a variety of assessment strategies in accordance with the school assessment schedule.
- Providing extensive professional learning to support teachers to improve on best teaching practice.

*This policy should be read in conjunction with the MPW PS Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan where there is further detail regarding targets, goals and strategies in the area of English.*