

SCIENCE

POLICY

Rationale:

Science is part of human experience relevant to everyone. All students can experience the joy and excitement of learning about the world in which they live. Knowledge of Science enables students to value the systems and processes that support life and to take a responsible role in using Science. There is a diversity of world views which should be welcomed, valued and respected. Science empowers students to be questioning, reflective and critical thinkers.

Aims:

Through exploratory and purposeful play, students in Years Prep – 2 will be involved in Science learning activities that focus on their awareness of self and the local world. In this age range the aims of the Science Program is to foster skills in:

- *Exploration*
- *Observation*
- *Order*
- *Change*
- *Questioning and speculation*

Students in Years 3 to 6 will have opportunities to develop ideas about Science that relate to their life and living. The aims of the Science Program at this level is to introduce a broader range of scientific concepts that will be explored by building on unifying ideas of exploration, observation, order, change, reason and speculation. These concepts will include:

- *Patterns Systems*
- *Cause and effect*
- *Evidence and explanation*

Implementation:

- All teachers will utilise the E5 model of Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, Evaluate and other relevant resources to implement an effective Science program for all students, based on the progression points contained within the AusVELS Standards.
- The assessment indicators contained within AusVELS will be addressed by work samples, common assessment tasks and moderation to provide evidence of developmental outcomes and formal reporting judgements.
- Science will be integrated into the English and Maths curriculum where appropriate.
- Science will be taught across P-6 during the second semester as a compact course. All relevant standards will be met and reported to parents in December reports.
- The Science Committee will promote and support community partnership programs that assist teachers to enhance students' Science education outcomes. These may include, for example, "Scientists in Schools", CSIRO Quest Awards, STAV Science Talent Search, STAV Science Drama Awards and Victorian Solar Boat Challenge.
- A budget that provides for the needs of the Science Program will be developed by staff and resourced by School Council.

Evaluation:

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

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

July 2016