



Our Lady of the Way Catholic Primary School **English Policy**

RATIONALE:

The study of English is central to the learning and development of all young Australians. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens. It is through the study of English that individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate with and build relationships with others and with the world around them. The study of English helps young people develop the knowledge and skills needed for education, training and the workplace. It helps them become ethical, thoughtful, informed and active members of society.

Learning English is about appropriate and effective use of language to convey and discover information, organise, explore and construct ideas and express feelings. It assists students to have a better understanding of themselves, their culture and their world. Learning English is important to personal and social development, employment and further education.

Although Australia is a linguistically and culturally diverse country, participation in many aspects of Australian life depends on effective communication in Standard Australian English. In addition, proficiency in English is invaluable globally. (Victorian Curriculum)

AIMS:

To learn to listen to, read, view, speak, write, create and reflect on increasingly complex and sophisticated spoken, written and multimodal texts across a growing range of contexts with accuracy, fluency and purpose

- To appreciate, enjoy and use the English language in all its variations and develop a sense of its richness and power to evoke feelings, convey information, form ideas, facilitate interaction with others, entertain, persuade and argue
- To understand how Standard Australian English works in its spoken and written forms and in combination with non-linguistic forms of communication to create meaning
- To develop interest and skills in inquiring into the aesthetic aspects of texts, and develop an informed appreciation of literature

IMPLEMENTATION:

The National Curriculum (Victorian Curriculum) will be used to facilitate the planning and evaluation of a sequential Foundation to Level 6 English program.

Explicit and systematic teaching of fundamental knowledge and skills is the pillar of our approach at Our Lady of the Way to provide the best possible environment for all students to develop the ability to read, write and understand the rules that govern the English language.

We have followed what the science states around literacy instruction and have developed an approach that is delivering outstanding results for all students. We are regularly exceeding expected growth across the vital years of Prep – Grade 2 where the fundamental skills of reading must be embedded, which is leading to sustained improvement and growth through to the later years.

Reading is made of 6 key areas:

1. Phonological Awareness
2. Phonics
3. Fluency
4. Vocabulary
5. Comprehension
6. Oral Language

Our structured reading and writing approach includes:

- Phonological awareness and phonics skill screening in the students first year of school
- Explicit teaching of phonological awareness and phonics
- Automaticity training in the recognition of irregular words/ high frequency words
- Vocabulary development.
- Explicit teaching of comprehension strategies
- Explicit teaching of comprehension questioning techniques.

Fluency

Fluency is defined as the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression. In order to understand what they read, children must be able to read fluently whether they are reading aloud or silently. When reading aloud, fluent readers read in phrases and add intonation appropriately. Their reading is smooth and has expression.

Spelling

Spelling activities involve students spelling, recording phonemes heard in words, breaking words into syllables, blending and segmenting words. Our Lady of the Way follows the SMART Spelling Program. This is implemented from Prep to Year 6. In addition to the SMART Spelling Program morphology and etymology is explicitly taught in all year levels.

Grammar

Our aim is to create an environment that allows students to use grammatical knowledge and understanding in order to make appropriate choices in getting their message across in both written texts and in speaking and listening.

Vocabulary

Vocabulary is one of the five major components of reading and is linked to academic success. Vocabulary instruction provides essential background knowledge for reading and writing. If students are taught words before they read them in a text, they have a better chance of comprehending what has been read. Vocabulary must be taught explicitly with the intention of improving comprehension and writing.

At Our Lady of the Way Primary School the students are engaged in 10 hours of literacy per week.