



ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Creative Arts Policy

INTRODUCTION

St John Fisher Catholic School is a K-6 learning environment in which the children are arranged according to multi-aged learning groups of K/1, 1/2, 3/4, Year 5 and Year 6. Students in Early Stage One/Stage One participate in a three-year learning cycle and students in Stage Two and Stage Three participate in a two-year learning cycle. The units of work within these cycles are organised so as to expose the students to a variety of learning experiences across all four aspects of the *Creative Arts K-6 Syllabus*, that is visual arts, music, drama and dance. Units of work will be designed so as to enable students to experience the outcomes through the learning processes of making, appreciating, performing, organising, composing and listening.

PURPOSE/RATIONALE

Through application of this policy, Saint John Fisher Catholic School aims to:

- ensure that each student is given the opportunity in Creative Arts to attain concepts, skills, knowledge and understandings as defined by the *Creative Arts K-6 Syllabus*;
- provide quality education and promote a desire for excellence among teachers and students within the area of Creative Arts;
- provide opportunities for students to explore and express their creativity through the use of a variety of resources and media.

AIM

The teaching of content from the *Creative Arts K-6 Syllabus* aims to "...enable students to gain increasing understanding and accomplishment in the visual arts, music, drama and dance and for the students to appreciate the meanings and values that each of the artforms offer personally, culturally and as forms of communication." (*Creative Arts K-6 Outcomes and Indicators*: Board of Studies NSW 2000, page 8)

BELIEFS ABOUT TEACHING AND LEARNING

The teaching staff of Saint John Fisher Catholic School believe that:

- the teaching of Creative Arts should encourage creativity and individuality;
- programs should expose the students to all four aspects of the Creative Arts Syllabus;
- teachers should plan Creative Arts activities that allow students to experiment with, and use, a wide variety of media;
- students should be given the opportunity to critically evaluate their own artwork as well as the artwork of other students and known artists.

RELIGIOUS DIMENSION

Learning experiences within the Creative Arts allow students to utilise the talents, skills and creativity that has been granted to them by God. The creative Arts provide a means for students to express their emotions about issues in their lives, such as equality, world events and so on. Student reflection and evaluation of works of art, whether they be painting, sculptures, drama productions, songs etc, can promote an awareness of social justice issues and in many cases may lead to the students initiating personal action.

The Creative Arts curriculum can enhance religious events within the school. Displays of artwork, dramatisations of readings, singing and liturgical movement all deepen the audience's understanding of the Gospel message and also invites participation in the liturgy.

OUTCOMES

As a consequence of this policy it is envisaged that:

- students will develop a desire to express and share their creativity with others;
- students will be inspired and motivated to participate in learning activities within the curriculum area of Creative Arts;
- teachers will implement balanced Creative Arts programs which include exposure to all four areas of the *Creative Arts K-6 Syllabus* (Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance) each year;
- teachers will plan a variety of learning activities that will develop the students' knowledge, skills and understandings by incorporating a range of traditional and contemporary media and technologies.

REQUIREMENTS

- teachers will program Creative Arts according to the requirements stipulated within the NSW Board of Studies *Creative Arts K-6 Syllabus*;
- teachers will teach Creative Arts content for a minimum of 90 minutes per week in accordance with the recommendations from Broken Bay CSO, although this time may include integration with other key learning areas;
- learning activities within individual programs should allow modification for those students with learning difficulties, as well as extension for those students who are talented in the curriculum area of Creative Arts;
- content from all four areas of the *Creative Arts K-6 Syllabus* (Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance) must be taught within each school year, although it is recognised that many elements from these areas can be effectively integrated;
- teachers will take into account the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines when planning and conducting Creative Arts activities;

REFERENCES

- Saint John Fisher Catholic School's Vision Statement.
- Diocese of Broken Bay Vision Statement
- NSW Board of Studies (2000): *Creative Arts K-6 Syllabus*.

EVALUATION

The respective class teachers will evaluate the suitability of the units of work within each stage at the end of each cycle year. Any modifications that will be required are to be passed on to the Creative Arts Key Reference Teacher within the school.

This Creative Arts Policy will be reviewed by the Creative Arts Key Reference Teacher/School Executive Committee in 2005.

APPENDIX A

List of Resources

- Saint John Fisher Catholic School Intranet Site.

This web page contains links to a copy of this policy and outcomes for the curriculum area of Creative Arts. It also contains links to resources on the World Wide Web, such as the Art Gallery of NSW and the Australian national.

- Creative Arts K-6 CD ROM

This CD ROM contains a copy of the Creative Arts Syllabus, support documents and student work samples.