



# ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## English Policy

### **INTRODUCTION**

The vision for our school is to make St John Fisher Catholic School:

*“a Christ – centred community in which Gospel values are evident, learned and lived. A place where the individuality of all is nurtured and respected.”*

This policy will provide a clear understanding about the framework for the teaching and learning of English at St John Fisher Catholic School.

### **PURPOSE / RATIONALE**

Through application of this policy, St John Fisher Catholic School aims to provide learning experiences that:-

*.....will assist students to become competent in English and to use language effectively in a range of contexts;*

*.....will develop knowledge, skills and understandings about the English language and literature. They will also learn to create and interpret a range of literary and factual texts; they will learn about the structure and grammar of these texts.*

*.....they will then be able to communicate their thoughts and feelings, to participate in society, to make informed decisions about personal and social issues, to analyse information and viewpoints, to use their imaginations and to think about the influence of culture on the meanings made with language.*

*English K-6 Syllabus 2001*

### **AIM**

At Saint John Fisher Catholic School we aim to:

- encourage positive attitudes towards learning English;
- develop students' ability in using language effectively;
- enable critical reflection on how language works;
- provide opportunities for students to succeed in a positive, creative and enjoyable environment;
- meet individual needs.

### **BELIEFS ABOUT TEACHING AND LEARNING**

At Saint John Fisher Catholic School we believe:

- that each child is unique and will learn in different ways and at different rates
- children learn best when activities are meaningful, relevant and reflect the real world
- that children should be empowered to take responsibility for their own learning
- that links to other KLAs should be explained and explored
- children need time to reflect on their learning

## **RELIGIOUS DIMENSION**

English is central to the celebration and sharing of our Catholic faith and values at St John Fisher Catholic School. English is embedded within the recognition of the uniqueness of all students, as created by God. Our English Policy aims to provide each child with the knowledge, skills and values that will allow each student to fulfill their greatest potential as a communicator and interpreter of language in all its forms, i.e. reading, writing, talking and listening.

Therefore:

- english programs will encourage and respect the rich diversity of unique responses that may occur;
- english programs will aim to meet the needs of each individual child;
- english curriculum components will be taught with an explicit focus;
- children will be given the opportunity to see, hear or view a model of a task before they engage in it;
- collaboration and risk taking are encouraged and valued;
- programs are in place to address the specific learning needs of some students;
- teaching/learning programs are informed by assessment of the children's work samples, discussion and feedback;
- assessment and reporting procedures that celebrate individual progress towards English outcomes will be provided.

## **OUTCOMES**

Students will:

- be actively engaged in English activities that are enjoyable and purposeful;
- work as a whole class, in small groups and individually;
- work in a group appropriate to their learning needs;
- have ownership of their learning;
- develop independence with their learning;
- use the skills and concepts learned in English in all aspects of their lives.

Teachers will:

- refer to the English syllabus when planning their teaching/learning programmes;
- timetable an uninterrupted literacy block for 1.5 to 2 hours per day. (Early Stage 1/Stage 1 before recess);
- plan English activities that are meaningful to the children, with a specific purpose whenever possible;
- provide models for the children to analyse, evaluate and/or follow;
- surround the classroom with environmental print;
- explicitly teach to both whole class and small groups;
- encourage children to be risk takers;
- closely and regularly monitor children's progress, grouping and regrouping them accordingly;
- use results of internal and external tests to inform teaching and learning;
- celebrate children's achievements in English;
- inform parents of their children's progress.

Parents / Community will:

- be encouraged to support their children's learning in English;
- be encouraged to assist in the development of their children's learning by relating home and real-life situations to English;
- be involved in parent education and work towards a shared view of English;
- be invited to assist teachers and children, working in the classroom during the Literacy block;
- be encouraged to volunteer their assistance in school based initiatives that compliment classroom programmes.

## **REFERENCES**

- English K-6 Syllabus.
- Board of Studies New South Wales 1998.
- A Literacy Plan for Diocesan Schools K-12 1998-2001.
- St John Fisher Catholic School Literacy Plan.
- St John Fisher Catholic School Literacy Policy.
- St John Fisher Catholic School Programming Guide ([Appendix A](#)).
- Programming Guide Proforma ([Appendix B](#)).
- St John Fisher Catholic School Assessment and Evaluation: Standardised Tests ([Appendix C](#)).
- Literacy decisions at St John Fisher Catholic School ([Appendix D](#)).
- St John Fisher Catholic School proof reading policy ([Appendix E](#)).
- Dictionary of Classroom Practices ([Appendix F](#)).

## **EVALUATION**

Evaluation of this policy is to be carried out annually by the staff under the guidance of the English Key Reference Teacher.