



# ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## Literacy Policy

### **INTRODUCTION**

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School will provide all students with appropriate opportunities to develop their literacy skills, to achieve personal growth and competency, to enhance learning across all areas of the curriculum and to function effectively in society.

St John Fisher Catholic School, Tumby Umbi has adopted the Board of Studies NSW K-6 English Syllabus (1998). Teaching and Learning in the English Key Learning Area is based on this document.

In order for students to achieve the outcomes of the K-6 English Syllabus it is essential that teaching and learning of literacy occurs in each of the Key Learning Areas in each stage of primary education. The essential requirements of the K-6 English Syllabus are reflected in the School Scope and Sequence (See BOS K-6 English Syllabus pages 68-83)

### **PURPOSE/RATIONALE**

St John Fisher Catholic School, Tumby Umbi has developed this Policy to support:

- all students to meet the targets set by the National Literacy and Numeracy Plan;
- the requirements of the Board of Studies ;
- the Diocesan Literacy Plan;
- school planning and decision-making in K-6 English: this Policy will establish a sound philosophical and organisational basis for developing, implementing and evaluating learning experiences and assessing student achievement of syllabus outcomes;
- the Diocesan Strategic Plan in striving towards excellence in teaching and learning in K-6 English;
- the Diocesan Mission Statement and its call to every member of the Diocese to transform society through the power of the Gospels under the four mission areas of: Community Life & Mission; Catholic Education & Personal Faith Development; Service & Social Justice; and, Diocesan Leadership & Community Support;
- the School's Mission Statement.

### **AIM**

The aim of the national Literacy and Numeracy goal is:

*“that every child leaving Primary school should be numerate and able to read, write and spell at an appropriate level.”*

This can be achieved by:

- planning and implementing quality teaching and learning programs;
- on-going observation and assessment to meet individual needs;
- providing meaningful experiences that relate to the children; and
- linking literacy to all key learning areas.

## **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;
- that 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 KLA's should be explained and explored; and
- that children need time to reflect on their learning.

## **RELIGIOUS DIMENSION**

At St John Fisher Catholic School we believe that the acquisition of literacy is the right of each student. The continual development of literacy across all areas of the curriculum will assist children to achieve their optimum competence. Competency within literacy will enhance the unique dignity of the individual.

Therefore:

- teaching learning programmes will develop students' literacy skills in a wide range of contexts;
- student achievement will be observed and monitored;
- programmes are in place for early identification of literacy strengths and weaknesses;
- intervention strategies are monitored to assess children's success and evaluate programmes;
- uninterrupted literacy blocks are planned daily; and
- opportunities to teach literacy across the curriculum are maximised.

## **OUTCOMES**

This policy will ensure that:

- a Literacy Plan is in place to articulate our school's beliefs, expectations and targets for literacy competence and development;
- there is an agreed practice in the implementation of the Literacy Plan;
- school leaders, teachers, parents and students work in a collaborative partnership in the development of literacy in the school;
- the literacy development of all students is enhanced in all Key Learning Areas;
- ongoing monitoring of all students performance in literacy is in place and informs teaching practices;
- resources are regularly reviewed and updated with a focus on all KLAs;
- there is adequate ongoing staff professional development in literacy; and
- effective intervention strategies for targeted students are in place.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School will:

- have in place a School Literacy Policy and Plan, which reflects the Diocesan Policy and implements the directions of the Diocesan Literacy Plan;
- pay specific attention to literacy needs associated with gender, culture and Special Needs students;
- provide evidence of student achievement;
- provide intervention strategies to meet student needs and monitor the success of these;
- achieve syllabus outcomes related to literacy;
- provide school-based professional development to meet teachers' needs;
- provide support for teachers to attend system professional development;

- form collaborative partnerships (including specialist teachers) to meet student literacy needs;
- timetable a 2 hour uninterrupted block allocated to literacy teaching daily;
- utilise opportunities across the curriculum for literacy development;
- data from the “Basic Schools Literacy test” and Observation Surveys will be used to inform teaching and learning K – 6;
- train all Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 teachers in the use of the Observation Survey;
- teachers will program English according to the NSW Board of Studies *English K-6 Syllabus* document and the requirements within this policy statement;
- 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 English;
- time allocation within the timetable and program organization is to be considered when implementing the English syllabus;
- when planning units of work, teachers should consider implementing activities that will allow students from backgrounds that have different cultural, religious and family practices from the majority of students within our school community, the chance to share and be proud of their heritage where-ever and whenever possible. These activities, where possible, to also involve members of the student’s extended family and use of outside agencies and personnel; and
- the Key Reference Teacher to support the learning of English in the school .

## **REFERENCES**

- St John Fisher Catholic School Literacy Plan.
- St John Fisher Catholic School English Policy.
- A Literacy Plan for Diocesan Schools. K-12 1998-2001.
- Catholic Schools Office Diocese of Broken Bay.

## **EVALUATION**

The school executive and the key reference teacher will;-

- review teachers programmes;
- organise stage meetings to;
  - ◊ discuss effectiveness of planning and practices;
  - ◊ children’s progress.

Effective teaching and learning in Literacy requires effective planning, programming, assessing and reporting practices. Policy and Program Evaluation at St John Fisher Catholic School, Tumbi Umbi is an ongoing process.