

# SACRED HEART PARISH 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 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 and plays an important part in developing the understanding, attitudes and capabilities of those who will take responsibility for Australia's future.

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. The English curriculum contributes both to nation-building and to internationalisation, including Australia's links to Asia.

English also helps students to engage imaginatively and critically with literature to expand the scope of their experience. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have contributed to Australian society and to its contemporary literature and literary heritage through their distinctive ways of representing and communicating knowledge, traditions and experience.

## **Aims**

The English curriculum aims to ensure that students:

- 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
- 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
- understand how Standard Australian English works in its spoken and written forms and in combination with non-linguistic forms of communication to create meaning
- develop interest and skills in inquiring into the aesthetic aspects of texts, and develop an informed appreciation of literature.

### **Implementation:**

- The English domain is an essential component of the Victorian Curriculum.
- All students at our school will be taught using the CAFE framework in Reading which caters for individual students according to their individual needs.
- All teachers are required to work with their collaborative teams to develop and implement a viable and effective English course for all students, and to implement lessons based on student needs.
- Student's individual abilities will be monitored using formal measurements including formative and summative tests, running records, anecdotal notes, moderation of work samples etc, and learning opportunities must be provided that cater for the identified needs of each student.
- Student progress in all dimensions of English will be reported in half year and end of year academic reports. The school's Naplan results will be reported in the school's annual report.
- Reading Recovery will be available for all year 1 students identified as 'at risk'.
- Literacy Support will be provided for students in Years 2-4 identified as 'at risk'.
- English study for each student will be not less than 10 hours per week, consisting on 5 x 2 hour.
- English activities that reflect the topics being studied at school, and are appropriate to each child's ability, will form a regular component of each student's homework regime.
- The Learning and Teaching English leader will be allocated the responsibility for coordinating English across the school and implementing programs, organising professional development and supporting teachers in the classroom.

### **Evaluation:**

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

This policy was last ratified by the staff and leadership team in....

**February 2017**

