



# Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

## English Policy

### **Rationale:**

To develop children's knowledge, understanding and skills of communication in English through Reading and Viewing; Writing, Speaking and Listening. Comprehending texts and recognising how language works within them, is necessary for literacy success. By understanding and working with texts, students acquire the knowledge, skills and personal qualities that enable them to read, view and listen critically and to think, speak and write clearly and confidently.

### **Aims:**

At Our Lady of Help of Christians Primary School, we aim to develop in all children:

- a love for reading where pupils choose to read frequently for enjoyment and information;
- the ability to read accurately, fluently and with good understanding;
- a strong command of the written and spoken word in order to communicate and respond effectively
- a high awareness of audience and the ability to adapt their language and style for different purposes and genres;
- an interest in words and their meanings to acquire a wide vocabulary;
- develop sound phonological and phonemic awareness skills;
- a sound understanding of grammar and punctuation and the ability to use that knowledge in literacy;
- legible, fluent handwriting style and the confidence and competence to produce high quality writing;
- the powers of imagination, inventiveness and critical awareness.

### **Implementation:**

At Our Lady of Help of Christians Primary School, we believe that:

- literacy is the cornerstone to success across the curriculum;
- knowledge about how language functions and how it both reflects and shapes social attitudes, assists students to achieve a better understanding of themselves, their culture and the contemporary world;
- with tightly focused data-driven instruction, we can develop the individual abilities of each child;
- the literacy program should cater for children of all levels and abilities;
- we create a fun, challenging and stimulating learning environment where children are encouraged to take risks and solve problems;
- knowing children learn in different ways, we as teachers need to use a variety of teaching methods and strategies;
- additional intervention and enrichment programs for those children in need should be provided whenever possible;
- a language rich environment should be provided that promotes a culture of reading and writing.

### **Implementation:**

At Our Lady of Help of Christians Primary School our curriculum will:

- provide a daily focused two-hour literacy session where timetable permits;
- use a wide range of educational approaches and strategies that meet the needs of each child and will be utilised in the teaching of literacy throughout the school to develop skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing, e.g. Words their Way and THRASS.
- use the Victorian Curriculum as a standard measure for literacy;
- provide resources that will target the learning needs of students at different stages in their development, including intervention and enrichment programs;
- use a range of formal and informal assessment and evaluation strategies in various contexts to measure student progress, learning styles and future needs;
- integrate the use of ICT into the literacy program;
- provide opportunities for family involvement in literacy learning.
- encourage a collaborative approach to monitoring and assessing children, where teachers work together to determine the next step for a student;

At Our Lady of Help of Christians Primary School:

- we will appoint Junior and Senior level leaders who will coordinate the development and implementation of Literacy across our school;
- level leaders, in consultation with staff members will develop budgets based on the needs of the students in the English curriculum
- will appoint Intervention staff to work with and support students and teachers.

### **Evaluation:**

This policy will be revisited yearly, reviewed as part of the school's review cycle or as changes are made to the Victorian curriculum.