



Rationale

The development of literacy is central to all curriculum areas. Literacy involves speaking, listening, reading, writing and thinking within a cultural context. It enables the student to recognise and select language appropriate to different situations. The increasing use of technological tools has implications for literacy acquisition and development. All students should experience success in literacy so as to become competent and confident in their literacy development.

Aims

The purpose is:

- to plan and implement strategies to ensure literacy success for all students
- to develop high quality teaching practices supported by ongoing professional development

The program will develop in students:

- the ability to speak, listen, read, view and write with enjoyment, purpose and confidence in a wide range of contexts
- a knowledge of the way in which language varies according to context, purpose, audience and content, and the capacity to apply this knowledge
- a knowledge of and understanding of how texts are constructed and a capacity to apply this knowledge in writing
- a broad knowledge of a range of texts and a capacity to relate this to aspects of contemporary society and personal experience
- the capacity to discuss and analyse texts and language critically
- a knowledge of the way textual interpretation and understanding may vary according to the cultural, social and personal differences, and the capacity to develop reasoned arguments about interpretation and meaning
- an ability to reflect on and evaluate what they have learned and how they can use their knowledge.

Guidelines for Implementation

3.1 The Program

Wales Street P.S. has made a whole school commitment to implementing the Early Years approach to Literacy.

Central to this program are structured literacy sessions, involving a reading component and a writing component. Each session involves a sequence of whole group – small group – whole group teaching, targeted to the identified needs of the students. All children will receive at least ten hours of Literacy each week.

Status: *Approved by School Council*

Review:

With the Early Years approach, small group teaching involves flexible groupings of children working on explicitly directed small-group activities or a range of purposeful, structured and engaging independent activities designed to cater for individual differences in abilities, experiences and responses to text.

Classroom programs are supplemented by a range of support structures for those children identified as needing additional assistance to meet the challenges of literacy acquisition including Parent Helpers, Literacy Support, and Aide support.

3.2 Planning

Given that the structure and organisation of the program is in place across the whole school, teachers will be involved in planning and implementing the range of teaching strategies they feel will best meet the identified needs of their students. The development of these approaches will be co-ordinated and supported through Team meetings. Literacy planning for classroom teaching will be documented for each group within the grade. Individual Learning Plans will be developed to support students who have been identified as having specific Literacy needs.

3.3 Assessment

Classroom teaching is explicitly tied to on-going monitoring of students' performance using the range of assessment tools. Data collected by classroom teachers and support staff will be available for whole school planning. Data will be used to inform learning and teaching practice. Students progress will be reported in half and end of year academic reports.

Resources

Resources will cover a wide range of written and electronic media across the scope of literacy abilities and interests evident within the school. The Literacy Coordinator, in consultation with PLT Leaders, will ensure, via the preparation of annual program budgets that these resources are made available.

Evaluation

A minor evaluation will be undertaken at the start of term 4 each year to coincide with Budget preparation.

A major evaluation will be undertaken every three years.