



## **Teaching and Learning Policy**

*Policy No: 1.06*

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### **Definitions**

**DEECD-** Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

**AUSVELS-** Australian Curriculum / Victorian Essential Learning Standards

**IB-PYP-** International Baccalaureate- Primary Years Program

**Student Led Conference-** (SLC) a student delivered presentation to parent/s to highlight the year's journey of learning, personal growth, challenges and achievements

**Exhibition-** is a culminating project by grade 6 students which is formally presented to parents.

**POI-** Program of Inquiry

### **Rationale**

At Wales Street Primary School, our teaching practices are aimed at improving outcomes for all our students. Our curriculum is based on recommended Department of Education and Early Childhood Development guidelines- AUSVELS and the International Baccalaureate-Primary Years Programme.

Wales Street Primary School's mission statement is:

*Wales Street Primary School is an internationally minded, community school dedicated to lifelong learning and helping students achieve their personal best*

### **Aim**

Incorporating AUSVELS and the Primary Years Programme (PYP), Wales Street Primary School curriculum aims to provide each student with a range of appropriate experiences which will:

- Be engaging and challenging
- Promote continuous progress and improvement in learning
- Help students to take responsibility for their own learning
- Place the student at the centre of the learning through the Inquiry approach
- Be significant in developing students to be literate and numerate
- Nurture within our students, an abiding curiosity about their world.
- Incorporate the essential elements of the PYP written curriculum- knowledge/skills/concepts attitudes and action.

### **Guidelines**

1. The School Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plans will identify Student Learning priorities that will be developed on a four year cyclic basis, in line with DEECD compliance requirements.
2. The school has applied successfully to become a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme and will undertake an

accreditation process over the next two years to be fully accredited as an IB\* school.

3. The school has adopted the Primary Years Program (PYP) as the basis for all curriculum planning and implementation. The development of the curriculum known as the Program of Inquiry incorporates the standards and content of AUSVELS.
4. At Wales Street Primary School, we believe that learning is best supported in classrooms that promote an inquiry based learning approach.  
This means:
  - We create classroom environments that promote self-esteem, confidence and cooperative learning to enhance the students' social, emotional and academic progress.
  - We aim to celebrate and foster an understanding of different cultures through our units of inquiry
  - We provide opportunities for students to be active citizens within their community by taking action.
  - We address the needs of students through differentiation in learning styles.
  - The method of Inquiry learning and concept based learning is the foundation of our teaching.
  - The school's mission is aligned to the IB mission statement.\*
  - Unit Planning is conducted in collaborative teams that is aligned with the PYP, AusVELS and the school strategic plan.
  - Appropriate teaching and learning resources are provided to support the curriculum throughout the school
5. The students will:
  - Develop and understand concepts about the world through the PYP's six trans-disciplinary themes- *Who we are/Where we are in place and time/How we express ourselves/How the world works/How we organise ourselves/How we share the planet*
  - Set learning goals as an integral part of the learning.
  - Receive regular feedback on their progress and are encouraged to reflect on their learning to improve their performance.
  - Build upon what they know and can do
  - Develop the traits of the IB Learner Profile and the PYP attitudes (see end of document)

## Implementation

### *Teachers*

- The ***International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program*** (IB-PYP) is the basis for the structured teaching of Inquiry and will be implemented from prep to grade 6.
- AUSVELS content will be the basis for the development of Units of Inquiry and assessment of student learning outcomes

- Program of Inquiry (POI) as developed by staff over time, will be reviewed annually in term 3 as well as a minor review by current Professional Learning Teams at the beginning of each year..
- Learning spaces will be flexible and adaptable in order to support inquiry-based learning where possible.
- Staff will use the documentation from the IBO as the key resource for Program of Inquiry development and the Induction.
- It is an expectation that all staff participate in regular ongoing professional development that is focussed on Inquiry learning
- Induction of new staff into the PYP and Inquiry learning will be conducted annually or as the need arises
- A commitment to Professional Development of staff, inclusive of the PYP, AUSVELS and the Inquiry approach will be ongoing and will support building teacher capacity.
- Staffing appointments will be based on a commitment to collaboration and teamwork and a commitment to inquiry based learning

#### *Students*

- Students are encouraged to develop and demonstrate the IB Learner Profile and IB- Attitudes throughout their academic, physical, social and emotional stages of development in their primary school years.
- Students are challenged to be the best they can be, pursue their personal best and attempt new things.
- Students are expected to work collaboratively , independently, in pairs and as a whole class, as deemed appropriate to the learning task
- The library supports all students in developing their research skills as well as a love of reading

#### *Parents*

- Parents will be kept informed of their child's progress and will be invited to be active participants in their child's learning
- Parents will be provided with information about the PYP through newsletters and the school web page, as well as information sessions conducted each year.
- Parents can access a wide range of extra curricula activities for their children inclusive of sports, music and non-sports based activities
- School council will be given regular updates and information about the progress of the PYP and the Annual Implementation Plan.
- Parents are offered a range of ways to share in the learning partnership at school both formally and informally, inclusive of parent information evenings, student-led conferences, parent teacher information exchange session, grade 6 exhibition and the bi-annual arts festival.

#### **Assessment**

- Assessment, both 'formative' and 'summative' will be integral to teaching and learning, and teachers will provide students with regular opportunities for reflection on their own learning.
- Students who are experiencing learning difficulties will be identified through a risk management process by teachers and the curriculum will be modified to

suit the needs of the student. Parents will be informed and regular contact established.

- Ongoing assessment data will be collected and analysed to provide information for teachers to plan according to need and also to report twice yearly to parents.
- Assessment data will provide the basis for future planning. See Assessment Policy

### **Resources:**

- A program budget will be developed to support the program as well as the purchasing of related teacher resources.

### **Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of a three year cycle

### **\*IB school- International Baccalaureate, Primary Years Program School**

#### **Mission Statement**

The International Baccalaureate Organization aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

\*\*IB learners strive to be:

Inquirers

Knowledgeable

Thinkers

Communicators

Principled

Open-minded

Caring

Risk-takers

Balanced

Reflective

*It's the IBO mission statement translated into a set of learning outcomes for the 21st century*

### **Resources**

Developing a trans-disciplinary programme of inquiry

Making the PYP Happen

The Primary Years Programme- A basis of practice