



Flowerdale Primary School

CORE PURPOSE and CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The core purpose of this school as defined in the Strategic Plan is to provide an inclusive, safe, caring learning environment that challenges and engages young people to grow as passionate learners. The school seeks to develop motivated, creative and independent learners who demonstrate strong social values and whose leadership, resilience and self-esteem is evident when interacting with the community.

The school provides a comprehensive curriculum with a strong focus on literacy and numeracy. Curriculum initiatives include the use of the “Letters and Sounds” phonemic awareness and phonics, and the Smart Spelling Program. We use the “Six Traits of Writing” to explicitly teach writing elements. Guided reading and Reciprocal reading are used in the Early Years. The Reading Workshop Model and Literature Circles extend reading in the older years. Teaching and learning is guided by regular assessment and students set goals with teachers at their point of need to move forward in their learning.

Our Mathematics Program is led by our Primary Mathematics Specialist and supported by our Tutor Program. In Mathematics we teach a mix of explicit teaching, challenging tasks and Mathematical investigations to build Mathematical Reasoning and develop problem solving skills. Where possible, Mathematics tasks are linked to real world problems.

Our school has developed a Social and Emotional Learning Program from Foundation to Year 6. It incorporates explicit lessons to introduce and reinforce elements of our Positive School Wide Behaviour Strategy in Term 1; teaches units from the Respectful Relationships Program in Terms 2 & 3 and the eSmart program in Term 4.

As a school we incorporate all the curriculum areas of Science, Humanities/History/Geography, Technologies/Design Technology, Civics and Citizenship, and Health through an inquiry based approach. These curriculum areas are also cross referenced with the literacy and numeracy program to ensure sufficient time is allocated to address the content.

Specialist teachers provide instruction in Physical Education, Language (German), the Visual and Performing Arts and the MARC Library Service. Interdisciplinary, personal and social learning are addressed within these curriculum areas and supported by a range of Outdoor Education camps and excursion initiatives. The school provides extra sporting opportunities through the Swimming Program, Swimming Carnival, kayaking for the year 4-6 students and participation in summer and winter sports with neighbouring schools. We participate in the Boite Schools Choir each year, a collaboration of students from across Melbourne.

Our school fosters a strong connection with the environment through the development of vegetable gardens and our Fire Wise Garden, which incorporates bush tucker foods. We participate annually in the Kids Teaching Kids program selecting a sustainability or environmental issue to research and develop activities to teach to other school students at the annual conference held in Yea.

The school has developed a structured approach to curriculum planning that ensures a shared vision within the school on curriculum development, common documentation and common understanding of the whole-school curriculum by teachers and parents. We implement a whole school assessment schedule and data is analysed regularly by teachers in professional learning teams.