

## Inquiry Learning Policy

Date: November 2008

### 1. Rationale

Inquiry Learning involves students focusing on their own, and teacher directed questions about a unit of work and having time to investigate the answers.

Children will further develop research skills and problem solving skills within the Inquiry Learning to become independent learners.

We believe that students are powerful learners who must be actively engaged in the process of investigating, processing, organising, synthesising, refining and extending their knowledge within a unit of work.

### 2. Aims

- 2.1 The Inquiry Learning process is a collaborative process in which both students and teachers work together, negotiating aspects of the curriculum.
- 2.2 Inquiry Learning involves the integration of the entire Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) domains.
- 2.3 Professional Learning Teams (PLT) and Specialist teachers will use the skills identified in VELS and the cyclic planner to scaffold individual learning and develop deeper understandings.

### 3 Implementation

- 3.1 All students will participate in learning experiences based on the Inquiry Learning planners.
- 3.2 Teachers are encouraged to access Principles of Learning and Teaching (PoLT), VELS continuum, Inquiry Learning Resources Kit, Thinking Curriculum, and other resources for staff to plan and teach units of work.
- 3.3 PLT's will collaboratively decide on report statements and outcomes to be used in June and December reports
- 3.4 The Teaching and Learning Key Reference Group (KRG) will oversee Science, Technology, Health, SOSE, including planners, resources and budgets.
- 3.5 Inquiry Learning planners will have **key understandings and skills identified in-line with VELS.**
- 3.6 The Teaching and Learning KRG will have a representative from all Professional Learning Teams.
- 3.7 The Teaching and Learning KRG will develop an Action Plan at the beginning of each year with responsibilities clearly identified.

**3.8** Program Budgets will be developed to resource the Inquiry Learning Curriculum with additional funding identified for the Key Learning Areas of Science, Technology, Health and SOSE.

**3.9** PLT's will have stand alone Literacy and Numeracy planners with an Inquiry Learning approach, in addition to the Inquiry Learning unit planner.

**4 Evaluation/Review**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the schools Strategic Plan.

**References**

Focus on Inquiry: -

A practical approach to integrated curriculum planning – J Wilson & L WingJan

This policy has been ratified by School Council on

25<sup>th</sup> November 2008.