

Science Policy

St Albans East Primary School

Date: August 2014



Rationale

AusVELS Science provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of important scientific concepts and processes, the practices used to develop scientific knowledge, of science's contribution to our culture and society, and its applications in our lives. The curriculum supports students to develop their scientific knowledge, understandings and skills to make informed decisions about local, national and global issues and to participate in science-related careers.

Aim

AusVELS Science aims to ensure that students develop:

- an interest in science as a means of expanding their curiosity and willingness to explore, ask questions about and speculate on the changing world in which they live
- an understanding of the vision that science provides of the nature of living things, of the Earth and its place in the cosmos, and of the physical and chemical processes that explain the behaviour of all material things
- an understanding of the nature of scientific inquiry and the ability to use a range of scientific inquiry methods, including questioning; planning and conducting experiments and investigations based on ethical principles; collecting and analysing data; evaluating results; and drawing critical, evidence-based conclusions
- an ability to communicate scientific understanding and findings to a range of audiences, to justify ideas on the basis of evidence, and to evaluate and debate scientific arguments and claims
- an ability to solve problems and make informed, evidence-based decisions about current and future applications of science while taking into account ethical and social implications of decisions
- an understanding of historical and cultural contributions to science as well as contemporary science issues and activities and an understanding of the diversity of careers related to science
- a solid foundation of knowledge of the biological, chemical, physical, earth and space sciences, including being able to select and integrate the scientific knowledge and methods needed to explain and predict phenomena, to apply that understanding to new situations and events, and to appreciate the dynamic nature of scientific knowledge.

Implementation

- The Science Domain is an essential component of the Discipline-based Learning Strand of AusVELS.
- All students at our school will study a sequential science course based upon the learning focus statements contained within the AusVELS Standards.
- All teachers are required to contribute to the development and implementation of a viable and guaranteed science course for all students, and to implement student needs based lessons using agreed planning templates and lesson structures.
- Student's individual abilities must be measured at the commencement of each unit of work, and learning opportunities must be provided that cater for the identified needs of each student.
- Student progress in science will be reported in half and end of year academic reports

Evaluation
Review Year

from years 3-6, as well as reported in the school's annual report.

- Science activities that reflect the topics being studied at school, and are appropriate to each child's ability, will form a component of each student's homework regime.
- A budget that provides for the needs of the science program will be developed by staff and resourced by school council.
- A staff member will be allocated the responsibility of coordinating the school's Science program.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

2017.