Doncaster Gardens Primary School
English Policy

Philosophical Basis:
English development is achieved by learning language, learning through language and learning about language. Literacy involves speaking and listening, reading, viewing and writing. At Doncaster Gardens Primary School the English program will reflect the diverse learning needs of our students.

Guidelines:
- English learning is an active process requiring participation, involvement and understanding.
- The necessary skills for appropriate, expressive and fluent speech will be encouraged.
- Children’s literature will form the core of the reading program.
- Reading for information, pleasure and appreciation will be promoted.
- Home reading will be encouraged and supported by an active program throughout classrooms.
- The ability to write fluently, legibly, expressively and for various purposes and audiences will be actively pursued.
- Writing activities, which enable children to have control over and ownership of their work will be used in all classrooms.

Implementation:
- The English Domain will be taught and assessed, according to the dimensions and modes of the Australian Curriculum, through a Whole Language approach.
- The English as an Additional Language (EAL) Companion to English in the Australian Curriculum will be implemented to cater for the needs of students acquiring English as a second language.
- Programs will make provision for all students’ abilities to ensure children are performing at or beyond their indicative level.
- Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) will be implemented where appropriate.
- Handwriting, spelling, grammar and punctuation are conventions of the English language and will be taught within a meaningful context and not in isolation.
- Teachers will use the teaching approaches as outlined in the Victorian Early Years Literacy Program and the DGPS English Resource Book, and WA First Steps will be used as a resource.
- A wide range of reading material from Prep to Year Six, including multiple copies of literature, will be utilised.
- Opportunity and support will be provided for children to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) English, Writing and Spelling Competitions. Students with high potential will be encouraged to participate whenever possible in the competitions as a further extension activity.
- Parents will be provided with the opportunity to assist in classroom programs where appropriate.
- Students will be provided with opportunities to improve their skills and confidence in public speaking, oral presentations and debating.

Evaluation:
- Teachers will observe student interest in, and enthusiasm for, English.
- Common assessment tasks will be chosen and developed at departmental levels and will be kept in the students’ files.
- Assessment and reporting procedures in the whole school Literacy Assessment Schedule will be completed in each class.
- Whole school and unit moderation will take place each term.
- Resources will be updated according to need.
- This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the policy review cycle.

June 2015