Doncaster Gardens Primary School
Extension Programs Policy

Philosophical Basis:
Doncaster Gardens Primary School ensures all children have access to a comprehensive curriculum that provides relevant and worthwhile programs, acknowledges differences in learning pace and styles, and enables students to participate, learn and experience success.

Guidelines:
- An environment that accommodates students with high and exceptional intellectual ability will be provided.
- The special abilities of gifted children will be recognised.
- Individual differences will be catered for within the regular classroom setting.
- Additional programs to support classroom activities will be provided, where relevant and appropriate.
- ‘Aiming High: A Strategy for Gifted and Talented Children and Young People 2014-2019’ sets out the Department of Education and Training’s (DET’s) plan for actions to be implemented over those five years to support Victoria’s gifted and talented students to reach their potential. These actions are in the areas of:
  - Engaging families and the community
  - Extending and supporting gifted and talented children and young people
  - Resources and capacity-building for early childhood professionals, teachers and leaders
  - Building the evidence base and evaluating our programs.

Implementation:
- Teachers will be responsible for the preparation and implementation of teaching and learning programs in which all children participate, interact, learn and achieve success.
- Teachers will have opportunities for ongoing professional learning to facilitate appropriate planning for all students with special abilities.
- Teachers will use their understanding of individual children to develop suitable programs.
- The Extension Programs Coordinator will be responsible for the coordination and implementation of the policy and enrichment programs, for example, GATEWAYS, WiseOnes.
- Children will be encouraged to participate in programs offered which cater for their special abilities.
- Above level testing will take place each year by such means as the PAT assessments, Early Years Numeracy Interview, Essential Assessment and the ICAS program (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) and other appropriate tests to further our knowledge of students who are achieving above the expected levels in a range of curriculum areas.
- Resources, including gifted education references and practical materials will be located in the teacher reference section of the Resource Centre.
- Acceleration of a student will only be considered in exceptional circumstances, and must be approved by the Principal in consultation with the Guidance Officer.

Evaluation:
- Ongoing evaluation of programs and teaching methods will be conducted.
- The children’s needs will be monitored and assessed, and programs and policies will be amended as appropriate.
- The numbers of students participating in extension programs will be monitored.
- This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the policy review cycle.

June 2015