Doncaster Gardens Primary School
English as an Additional Language (EAL) Policy

Philosophical Basis:

Living in a multilingual/multicultural society where English is the main form of communication, it is essential that we acknowledge and appreciate the diversity of cultures within our school and the wider community.

As part of our educational commitment to provide equal access to opportunities for students to reach their full potential, all students need to be competent users of English. Developing this competence is an ongoing task for all students, and EAL students will have particular needs that must be addressed. In order to foster the development of the three strands of English to a competent standard, EAL students require targeted English language teaching, extra time, support and exposure to English. Depending on each individual this can take between two and seven years.

Guidelines:

- Appropriate EAL assistance will be provided in a supportive school environment.
- Students' abilities to use language confidently for different purposes and in different situations will be developed.
- An awareness of appropriate English that is acceptable in a range of social and learning contexts will be developed.
- An environment in which students feel comfortable to try their English language skills will be established.
- The first language of students needs to be recognised and reaffirmed, and its maintenance encouraged.
- The cultural identities of students need to be recognised and reaffirmed in order to develop positive self-esteem.
- Regular information sessions for parents of students involved in the EAL program will be provided.

Implementation:

- A whole school approach should be adopted in which students are predominantly catered for in their normal classrooms.
- EAL students will be identified, and appropriate assistance and support provided.
- Students participating in the EAL withdrawal program will be placed on Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) as appropriate.
- Withdrawal classes will be provided on a regular basis for eligible EAL students if staffing and funding is available.
- Students will be encouraged to speak in English whenever possible.
- Depending on assessment results, a student may be placed on an EAL report.
- When an assessment of an EAL student on the English Standards is within acceptable year level parameters, then it is time to start using AusVELS for assessment and reporting.

Evaluation:

- Students from non-English speaking backgrounds will be assessed using the EAL Continuum.
- This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the policy review cycle.