



# Christmas Hills Primary School

## School Philosophy Policy

October 2019

### POLICY STATEMENT

Christmas Hills Primary is committed to providing a safe, stimulating and supportive learning environment that provides students optimal opportunities for academic and personal growth. We aim to ensure outstanding quality teaching whilst promoting a strong sense and understanding of the importance of parents in the education of their children. We seek to foster strong partnerships between the school and home.

The programs of, and teaching in, the school will support and promote the principles and practices of Australian democracy including a commitment to:

- ☐ Valuing the electoral processes of our country and the right of all citizens to participate in these processes
- ☐ The rule of law
- ☐ Equal rights for all before the law
- ☐ Freedom of religion
- ☐ Freedom of speech and association
- ☐ The values of openness and acceptance of differences and diversity
- ☐ The safety of all children

### AIMS:

- ☐ To explain to parents/carers, students and staff the Educational Philosophy of our School and the Teaching and Learning Framework that support its implementation.

### COMMUNICATION

The Philosophy Policy will be published on the School Website.

### POLICY

The staff of Christmas Hills Primary School will ensure that the School's Educational Philosophy is applied within our school in line with current research-based teaching and learning approaches. This will be evident in key planning documents including, the School Strategic Plan, Annual Implementation Plan, Staff Personal Development Plans and classroom planning documentation. Curriculum and teaching practice will be regularly reviewed by means of key school planning documents as well as regular peer observations and other structured reflective processes.

#### Curriculum Plan

The Victorian Curriculum Standards will be used as the basis for planning and assessment. The [VCAA Scope and Sequence Documents](#) will provide the overall curriculum plan for our school.

#### Teaching and Learning Framework

The Framework for Improving Student Outcomes ([FISO](#)) will be the overarching framework for teaching and learning for our school.

#### High Impact Teaching Strategies

In addition to other key learning programs, the High-Impact Teaching Strategies ([HITS](#)) will be utilised by staff in planning for, and delivering learning experiences and assessing student learning.

#### Educational Philosophy

In addition to the above documents, the school will hold ourselves accountable to the following service standards.

### **General:**

- ☐ The students' best interests will be at the fore of every decision and action the school takes and Student Voice will be a priority for all members of our School Community
- ☐ We will hold ourselves accountable to our motto, 'Where Learning is an Adventure'
- ☐ All students will feel at all times that they are cared for and valued
- ☐ The school will provide a safe and stimulating learning environment to ensure all students can achieve their full potential
- ☐ The school will provide all students with access to a broad, balanced and differentiated learning curriculum including skills for learning and life
- ☐ All students will achieve instruction that is adapted to their individual needs
- ☐ All students will feel a strong sense of ownership and responsibility for their learning
- ☐ The school will foster close links with parents and the broader school community through its commitment to open and regular communications
- ☐ We will be united in creating a culture of high expectations and self-belief

### **Specific:**

- ☐ There will be an expectation of creativity and flexibility for our teachers in their planning. Planning will be rigorous, detailed and constantly monitored and reviewed for efficacy. Planning will be a collaborative process and all staff will have access to each others' planning documents via the use of Google Apps for Education
- ☐ Student voice will be evident in our planning and will include components that reflect the students' personal interests. Students will be involved in the planning processes and given choices in their learning
- ☐ Regular physical breaks will be a feature of our classrooms
- ☐ Planning and pedagogy will be consistent across our school and plans will be prepared and submitted in a timely manner
- ☐ The school will continue to build collaborative networks with our local schools to enhance our planning and provide learning opportunities for our students
- ☐ All parents will be provided with the Yearly Planner Overview as well as a copy of the Weekly Timetable at the beginning of the school year
- ☐ Students will have a clear understanding of what they are learning (Learning Intention) and teacher expectations (Success Criteria)
- ☐ Learning in our classrooms will be multi-modal with students engaged in a variety of activities. There will be elements of exploration and enquiry evident in these activities
- ☐ Student academic and personal achievements will be recognised and celebrated
- ☐ There will be a continuous feedback loop between students, parents and staff. Feedback will be targeted and timely. Students will be active participants in the feedback cycle and will have a say in determining feedback methods
- ☐ Our bi-annual reports will be accurate, well-written and demonstrate a clear understanding of the children. Students will lead our bi-annual Three-Way Conferences
- ☐ Regular school attendance will be valued by all school community members
- ☐ Staff will be proactive in promoting a positive classroom environment. There will be careful planning of activities, the maintenance of clean and organised learning spaces and high expectations for student behaviour
- ☐ The school will be restorative and respectful in our approach to managing student behavioural issues and classroom teachers will engage positively and regularly with parents as these issues arise
- ☐ Students will play an active part in the development and review of the School's wellbeing policies

### **Evaluation and Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Staff and Ambassadors at the beginning of the school year and bi-annually by School Council.