

Literacy Policy

Rationale

At Wilandra Rise Primary School we understand how vital literacy skills are to support all learning and use evidence-based methods to ensure all students succeed and thrive in this area. Literacy impacts all aspects of our lives and competence in Literacy is integral to successful participation in all societies. Literacy has a fundamental role in enabling cultural, social and technological advances and empowering individuals as critical thinkers.

We are following an evidence and science based approach to literacy instruction that is designed to deliver the best possible outcomes for all students. Explicit direct instruction of fundamental knowledge and skills is the basis of our approach. Our aim is to provide the best possible environment for all students develop the ability to read, write and understand the rules that govern the English language.

Implementation

Students at all levels will follow our Systematic Synthetic Phonics approach to literacy.

- Our structured reading and writing approach includes:
- Phonological awareness and phonics skill screening on arrival
- Explicit teaching of phonological awareness and phonics
- Automaticity training in the recognition of irregular words/ high frequency words
- Guided practise to improve fluency
- Vocabulary development. Including structured morphology from Prep to 6
- Explicit teaching of comprehension strategies
- Explicit teaching of comprehension questioning techniques.

All leaders of literacy at Wilandra Rise Primary School will:

- Develop and share a deep understanding of literacy pedagogy that can support literacy improvement across the school
- Establish and maintain a whole school approach to literacy to ensure continual improvement in student learning
- Support Learning Community Leaders to develop a common Literacy Planning document to cater for differentiated learning
- Regularly monitor and analyse achievement data to identify future planning needs
- Promote a culture of high expectation for students, parents and staff
- Ensure that appropriate, sufficient and up-to-date resources are available.
- Support Learning Communities to build their capacity to improve student outcomes
- Support teachers in using assessment information to scaffold student learning in literacy and language

Wilandra Rise Primary School Policy Statement

- Ensure that policies and the whole school literacy learning program in all learning areas is formulated and implemented with the language learning needs of all students in mind.
- Work closely with the EAL Leader to ensure consistency and clarity in Literacy instruction
- Work closely with the Leadership team and the EAL Learning Specialist and Learning Community Leaders to analyse school data related to EAL learners and the implications for whole school provision
- Ensure all new staff are provided with the relevant professional learning in order to have the necessary skills to effectively deliver the SSP curriculum

Classroom teachers will:

- establish structures and routines to support a daily literacy block, with a focus on explicit teaching where students are taught at the point of need
- articulate high expectations for every student, set timely, realistic and challenging learning goals and write Individual Learning Improvement Plans for identified students
- possess pedagogical knowledge and discipline content knowledge of the SSP model and use this information in planning and instruction
- have a deep understanding of assessment strategies
- use a wide range of evidence-based assessment instruments appropriate to the stage and domain of learning
- provide ongoing, constructive and timely feedback to enable students to build their knowledge and understanding
- monitor and analyse student data to identify student strengths, needs and focus for instruction,
- plan for and dedicate focused time for the explicit teaching of literacy and allow ample opportunities for students to engage independently in authentic literacy tasks
- integrate as a learning tool in all areas of the curriculum

Related policies:

Learning and Teaching Policy

EAL Policy

Assessment Policy

Curriculum Framework Policy

Evaluation

To be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review process.