



# Inquiry Based Learning

## POLICY

### Purpose

- To provide a guided inquiry approach to teaching and learning that helps students to construct meaning, think creatively and solve problems.
- To allow students to increase their understanding and knowledge of the world by engagement in the exploration of ideas for deep understanding.
- To ensure that all students are given the opportunity to develop curiosity and a love of learning
- To develop in students a sense of social responsibility and personal values.

### Guidelines

- The program will include higher-order thinking and questioning to form an inquiry.
- Learners will use a variety of sources of information and different modes of learning to enhance their deeper understandings according to intended curriculum learning outcomes from the Victorian Curriculum.
- The program will require learners to become information literate and competent users of the World Wide Web.
- The program will involve planning, guiding and modelling collaboratively between teachers and learners.
- Teachers will seek and engage in professional learning to support the program.  
Teachers will tailor learning experiences and opportunities, resources and processes to the needs and abilities of each student.

### Implementation

#### Teachers will

- Use a whole school approach using the Higher Order Thinking Skills Scope and Sequence.
- Follow the whole school unit planner to plan inquiries based on an 'Essential Question' prior to beginning teaching the unit.
- Plan together in grade/unit levels using the specified template, which is a working document, and teachers will team teach where possible.

- Develop Inquiry learning unit topics on a two-year period for a term and there will be an 'Essential Question' based on the Victorian Curriculum.
- Assist students to develop a product or action as a result of the inquiry.
- Integrate Inquiry Learning Units across the curriculum as well as into the Literacy and Numeracy block.
- Teach Inquiry Learning Units for a minimum of two hours a week with a learning focus from the unit.
- Inform Specialist teachers of the Inquiry Learning Units and expect them to support the learning.
- Display the learning focus at the beginning of each lesson and will come from the Victorian Curriculum and the essential, focus and content questions.
- Display the 'why' of the learning and communicate it to the students.
- Provide students with the success criteria for each session/activity.
- Share and document all resources in a shared file/document on the designated learning platform.
- Select topics as a learning community team with essential questions with a specific curriculum focus from the Victorian Curriculum.

## Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review cycle.

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	November 2021
Approved by	School Council
Next scheduled review date	November 2022.