



# English (Literacy) Learning Area Policy Sacred Heart Highgate

<p><b>Rationale and Definition</b></p> <p>In the English learning area, students learn about the English language: how it works and how to use it effectively. They develop an understanding of the ways in which language operates as a social process and how to use language in a variety of forms and situations. They learn to speak, listen, view, read and write effectively. Teaching English involves recognising, accepting, valuing and building on students' existing language competence, including the use of non-standard forms of English, and extending the range of language available to students. In the English Learning Area, students develop functional and critical literacy skills. They learn to control and understand the conventions of Standard Australian English that are valued and rewarded by society and to reflect on and critically analyse their own use of language and the language of others.</p>	<p><b>Principles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All students can achieve high standards given enough support and time</li><li>• Students and their needs drive the curriculum</li><li>• Data drives instruction</li><li>• Collaborative environments are essential for learning</li><li>• Assessment and reporting is linked to the classroom teaching programs</li></ul>
<p><b>Teaching and Learning Practise</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Dedicated Literacy Time (DLT) is scheduled each day for 90 minutes</li><li>2. DLT follows either the Junior or the Upper Primary RAISe format (see attachment).</li><li>3. Explicit teaching and modelling form part of every DLT session</li><li>4. Guided reading is an essential component of DLT</li><li>5. Student learning is maximised through the teaching of the same genre in reading and writing</li><li>6. Students are placed in flexible groups which change according to need and purpose</li><li>7. First Steps forms the basis for Literacy Programs</li></ol>	
<p><b>Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting</b></p> <p>As per the Assessment and Monitoring Schedule for the current year. Reading and writing must be assessed and reported on in each written semester report. <b>Either</b> Listening &amp; Speaking or Viewing should be included in each written semester report <b>not both</b>.</p>	

May 2009

20/08/2009