RATIONAL

Curriculum covers all the arrangements the school makes for students’ development and learning. It includes the course content, student activities, teaching approaches, the way in which teachers and classes are organised and decisions on the need for and the use of facilities and resources.

PURPOSE

Essendon North Primary School encourages all its students to strive for excellence in all of their endeavours. To achieve this, the school provides sequential teaching and learning approaches that deliver a comprehensive, broadly based and inclusive curriculum.

Each year the school will map out its curriculum offerings. It will be in the form of a Curriculum Plan (see Appendix A).

IMPLEMENTATION

- Essendon North Primary School will recognise and respond to diverse student needs when developing its curriculum plan and programs.
- Essendon North Primary School will comply with all DEECD guidelines about the length of student instruction time required in Victorian schools.
- There will be a broad offering of programs to meet the demands of students. The Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) will be implemented from Prep to Year 6 at Essendon North Primary School.
- School curriculum programs are designed to enhance effective student learning.
- Preparing children for the transition from primary school into secondary school, and beyond, careers is a critical element in the development of curriculum.
- Teaching and learning programs will be resourced through Program Budgets.

THE PROGRAM

- Essendon North Primary School will provide a variety of programs that will address the specific needs of students in relation to gender, special learning needs, disabilities and impairments, giftedness and students from language backgrounds other than English.
Essendon North Primary School will identify and cater for the different needs of particular cohorts of students when developing its curriculum plan.

Essendon North Primary School when developing its Curriculum Plan will provide at least 25 hours student instruction per week.

Input will be sought from the relevant staff in the curriculum area when determining programs for the following school year.

The Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) will be used as a framework for curriculum development and delivery from Prep to Year 6 in accordance with DEECD policy and guidelines.

Every year Essendon North Primary School will do an audit of the Prep to Year 6 curriculum using an audit tool (Word - 32Kb). This tool will enable professional learning teams to audit the curriculum of a particular program to see which domains, dimensions and standards of the VELS are currently being addressed. This audit will inform future curriculum planning.

To facilitate this implementation, a Scope and Sequence, and an Assessment and Reporting Schedule will be produced that reflect the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.

The teaching of Physical Education, The Arts and LOTE as specialist programs will continue to be implemented as far as annual resources will allow.

The use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) will be integrated across the curriculum to support the improvement of teaching and learning outcomes.

Early and Middle Years of schooling approaches will continue to be developed and implemented.

In developing its curriculum plan the school will provide a broad range of educational pathways to ensure improved student outcomes.

Program Leaders will be required to review their policy statement and prepare a comprehensive annual program budget and submit these to School Council.

LINKS AND APPENDICES

Links that are connected with this policy are:

Appendices which are connected with this policy are:
- Appendix A: Curriculum Plan – including time allocations

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed annually or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.
APPENDIX 1

Years Prep to Year 6
The curriculum is based on the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). The weekly timetable is structured using a 2 hour – 1 ½ hour - 1 ½ hour model. Each lesson is 1 hour in duration, except for specialist programs that are 45 minutes in duration. There are approximately 25 teaching hours in the week.

The breakdown of core content areas, and the average time spent teaching each, is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Lessons Per Week</th>
<th>Minutes per week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>276</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>276</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>138</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td>92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts/Design/Technology</td>
<td>92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOTE</td>
<td>161</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE/ Health</td>
<td>115</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>1500 per week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>