

L.O.T.E. POLICY

Rationale:

Languages Other Than English (LOTE) contributes to social cohesiveness through enhanced communication and understanding of our global society. LOTE supports the linguistic development of young people with regard to world cultures and fosters economic, diplomatic and strategic awareness. Learning a language nurtures reflective, deep and creative thinking, cultivating distinctive fields of knowledge. LOTE requires learners to operate outside the norms, practices and acquired behaviours of their first language.

Aims:

To

- Communicate in the target language for many purposes and in many contexts extending their social communication skills
- Develop an understanding of the way language works (its structure, the role it plays, and its effects), which they can apply to other languages, including English
- Enhance the general intellectual development of young people through taught and incidental insights into how knowledge is organised by different socio-cultural communities
- Assist students to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills
- Develop communication skills and knowledge and come to understand social, historical, familial relationships and other aspects of the specific language and culture of the speakers of the language studied
- Provide learners with the tools, through comparison and reflection, to understand language, culture and humanity in a broad sense
- Contribute to the development of citizens who have an understanding of the cultural contexts in which the language is used, as well as the shared meanings, values and practices of the community as embodied in that language.
- Inspire interest in and respect for cultures at a time of rapid globalisation.

Implementation:

1. The LOTE selected for Alphington is Italian and was ratified by School Council after wide community consultation.
2. Students from P-6 study LOTE (Italian) weekly.
3. The LOTE teacher is responsible for coordinating the school's LOTE program, including a LOTE multicultural day and LOTE incursion/excursions.
4. The LOTE Teacher develops and implements the LOTE program based upon the outcomes contained within the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.
5. The LOTE program will provide engaging learning experiences that differentiate students' learning needs.
6. The program promotes the development of self-awareness and a sense of personal and cultural identity.
7. The LOTE program makes connections across a range of concepts drawn from other domains of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS) such as ICT, Interpersonal Development, Communication and Thinking and consists of learning experiences in the following areas: speaking, listening, writing, reading and cultural appreciation.

8. The LOTE program is not formally reported against the Victorian Essential Learning Standards until Level 4 (Grade 5 & 6) whereby it is taught at two levels.
9. Student progress in LOTE is reported each semester through a written report, Portfolio learning samples and parent consultations.
10. The Italian LOTE program is implemented in conjunction with the Curriculum Planning Guidelines, the Principles of Learning and Teaching P-12, the advice on Assessment and Reporting and DEECD examples of effective school practice.

Evaluation:

The School Council will be responsible for the review of the LOTE Policy within the life of the School Strategic Plan.

- This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

August 2010