

Science Policy

Rationale

Science and its applications are part of everyday life. Science education contributes to the development of scientifically and technologically aware citizens who are able to make informed decisions about their lifestyle, environment and the kind of society in which they wish to live. Science education is important in developing students' abilities to ask questions and find answers about the natural and physical world.

Science education:

- provides students with insight into the way scientific knowledge is developed and the way science is applied
- shows how scientists work in the community
- helps students make informed decisions about scientific issues.

1. Guidelines

The Science program aims to develop:

- 1.1 Situations relevant to students' lives that generate interest and enthusiasm and promote their natural curiosity to investigate and experiment
- 1.2 Skills of scientific investigation, reasoning and analysis to ask questions and seek solutions
- 1.3 Scientific attributes, such as inquiry, flexibility, critical reflection, respect for evidence and ethical considerations
- 1.4 Attitudes and skills that promote beneficial use and application of scientific knowledge
- 1.5 An understanding of the effects of Science in our community, on our environment, and our lives.

2. Implementation

- 2.1 The Science program should be based on the dimensions set out in AusVELS/National Curriculum
- 2.2 The classroom teacher will be responsible for delivery of the program
- 2.3 The Science Coordinator will:
 - prepare and review program budgets
 - purchase, organise, store and maintain the science resources
 - organise staff program assistance
- 2.4 The classroom teacher will be responsible for the delivery of the program through team planning and collaborative practices
- 2.5 Science based investigations will be included in the whole school inquiry planner
- 2.6 Teaching will be activity based and involve problem solving, inquiry learning, individual and shared experiences, cooperative group work, cross-age tutoring, indoor and outdoor experiences and community involvement
- 2.7 Students will be encouraged to explore relationships between areas of knowledge
- 2.8 Participation in extension programs will be encouraged and supported where possible.

3. Resources

- 3.1 The provision of resources and classroom programs will be supported through the annual program budget
- 3.2 ICT resources will be regularly updated to support and enhance the program
- 3.3 Excursions and In- School activities may be organised to support a unit of work.

4. Evaluation

- 4.1 The Education Sub Committee and Weeden Heights staff will review the effectiveness of the school's Science Policy on a cyclical basis in accordance with DET guidelines and priorities.