THE ARTS POLICY

Rationale:

The Arts are a fundamental means of expression and communication. They enable us to gain a sense of our social and individual identity. Through the Arts domain students learn ways of experiencing, developing, representing and understanding ideas, emotions, values and cultural beliefs. The Arts are unique expressive, creative and communicative forms that engage students in critical and creative thinking and help them understand themselves and the world. (VELS)

Purpose:

1. To develop the intellectual, perceptual and expressive potential of students through aural, spatial, kinaesthetic, interpersonal and visual experiences.
2. To equip students to use and understand the arts forms as symbolic languages by:
   - developing skills, techniques and processes
   - developing abilities to perform or present arts works
   - exploring how different social and cultural groups engage in, and convey meaning through, The Arts.
3. To develop students' skills in arts criticism and aesthetics through describing, analysing, interpreting and evaluating their own and others' arts works.
4. To develop students' understanding that The Arts evolve within particular social and cultural contexts by:
   - studying how The Arts reflect, construct, reinforce and challenge values in different cultures
   - studying The Arts from both historical and contemporary perspectives.
5. To demonstrate the accessibility and relevance of The Arts skills and experiences to life, particularly in recreation and employment.
6. To expose children to a broad range of Arts experiences.

Guidelines for Implementation:

1. Students will be given the opportunity to undertake programs in both the Performing Arts and Visual Arts. The disciplines include…Visual Arts, Dance, Music, Drama and Media.
2. Children will experience The Arts discipline as discrete learning experiences.
3. The skills and understandings for each strand will be developed on a sequential basis.
4. The disciplines of The Arts will be interlinked and The Arts program integrated across the curriculum.
5. Each art discipline will be organised under the following dimensions.

Arts Practice- *Creating and Making*
- Arts ideas
  - developing arts ideas using a range of starting points
  - exploring personal experiences, ideas, feelings and understandings through making arts works
  - developing arts works by imagining, experimenting, planning and applying arts elements, processes and techniques
  - creating and presenting arts works individually and in groups

- Arts skills, techniques and processes
    - developing knowledge of and using arts elements, principles, materials and presentation spaces
    - developing knowledge of arts skills, techniques and processes in creating and presenting arts works for a variety of purposes and audiences
    - developing understanding of and using discipline-specific terminology and symbols

Exploring and Responding to the Arts
- Arts criticism and aesthetics
    - analysing and refining own arts works
    - analysing and responding to the expressive qualities of arts works by referring to the use of elements, content and techniques
    - developing and expressing understandings and making personal and informed judgement of arts works
    - discussing the nature and aesthetic qualities of arts works
    - add:
    - Using appropriate ICT tools to further enrich ARTS knowledge and understanding
    - use of ICT as a means of exploring and appreciating the 'Arts' globally eg. Online galleries, appreciation of art from varying cultures/history
    - exploring the use of art directed 'blogs'
    - access to music appreciation online
    - online searches

- Arts contexts
    - developing an understanding of the social, cultural and historical contexts of arts works
    - describing the various purposes, functions and audiences of arts works
    - evaluating own works within cultural contexts
    - analysing the ways in which the arts works reflect, construct, reinforce and challenge cultural values

Resources:
Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority F-10