

1.0 PURPOSE OF POLICY

- 1.1 To develop students' knowledge and understanding of the earth and space, and physical, chemical and biological sciences.
- 1.2 To develop a scientific approach to the solution of practical problems.
- 1.3 To foster an appreciation of the place of science in our lives and its application to science as a human endeavor.
- 1.4 To develop interest and curiosity in science.
- 1.5 To develop students scientific literacy skills

2.0 PRINCIPLES

- 2.1 Science should build on students' interests and prior knowledge with an emphasis on our local agriculture industry.
- 2.2 Use should be made of a wide variety of teaching and learning strategies within a range of settings with an emphasis on practical work.
- 2.3 Science should be integrated with other subject areas where possible and appropriate to support context.
- 2.4 Where possible science classes at 7-12 should be taught by qualified teachers.
- 2.5 Science should reflect safe work practices.
- 2.6 Science should use current practices and incorporate recent discoveries and support the TAP in most topics taught.

3.0 HOW THIS POLICY WILL BE PUT INTO PRACTICE

- 3.1 In P-6 science will be integrated into thematic studies where appropriate with support resources used to develop a structured teaching and learning program for each level.
 - 3.2 For science in P-10 themes\topics\units will be chosen which allow the VELs strands, domains and dimensions to be achieved, and in line with current Curriculum as it is developed.
 - 3.3 Science will be a core unit for years 7-10 with a range of electives also offered to foster and extend students science knowledge.
 - 3.4 Students intending to take VCE science subjects will be encouraged to complete the recommended units at years 9, 10, 11.
- 3.5 Science will involve students in a variety of practical activities designed to develop experimental and research skills.
 - 3.6 Safe work practices will be systematically taught, encouraged and reinforced.
 - 3.7 The science activities will follow guidelines set down in the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations for Hazardous Substances 1999.
 - 3.8 Science classes will be conducted in suitably equipped rooms.
 - 3.9 For laboratory work the preparation of class materials, maintenance of equipment, supplies of chemicals and materials and care of live exhibits will be

carried out by a qualified laboratory technician who will also assist teachers during practical classes as required.

- 3.10 Experiment reports need to be completed for all experiments carried out in the laboratory.
- 3.11 Risk assessments will be undertaken for all Hazardous Substances used and appropriate MSDS kept and displayed for all chemicals.
- 3.12 Any experiments undertaken using live animals must be approved by the animal ethics committee.