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.