

INVESTIGATIONS

POLICY

Rationale:

- Investigations through an inquiry approach to learning is based on the belief that students are powerful learners who must be actively engaged in the process of investigating, processing, organising, synthesising, refining and extending their knowledge within a topic. Inquiry Learning is a collaborative process, involving higher order thinking, in which teachers and students negotiate aspects of the curriculum. It encourages learners to examine the complexity of their world, form concepts and generalisations rather than being provided with information.

Aims:

- To design investigations so that students can develop a set of skills, behaviours and dispositions, or general capabilities that apply across discipline content and equip them to be lifelong learners who are able to operate with confidence in a complex, information-rich, globalised world.
- Investigations will enable students to:
 - Identify what they want to know and do
 - Develop a rich knowledge base and inquiry skills
 - Locate appropriate sources of information
 - Gather, sort and organise information
 - Present information in a variety of creative products
 - Reflect on what they have learnt
 - Think about and apply newly acquired information to new situations
 - Understand the connections between learning and real life

Implementation:

- Teams of teachers will develop Investigations Units based on a consistent model, that will facilitate the exploration of content areas, broaden the students' understanding of the world, cater for their interests and provide a balance of content as students move through levels in the school
- Teachers will ensure that Investigations Units are underpinned by and meet the Victorian Curriculum, Learning Areas and Capabilities as appropriate to student learning needs
- Capabilities encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that, together with curriculum content in each learning area, will assist students to live and work successfully in the twenty-first century
- Investigations skills will be explicitly taught including, questioning techniques, research, thinking, cooperative and social skills, making connections with other learning and real life, making generalizations, taking action and reflecting on their learning
- Investigations will support students to develop the scientific, historical, knowledge, understandings and skills to make informed decisions about local, national and global issues.
- Students prior knowledge will be taken into account.
- Assessment for, as and of will be incorporated into the inquiry process including negotiated criteria for assessing student learning. e.g: rubrics, graphic organizers, presentations and reflections

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

- This policy was last ratified by School Council in 2017.