

MacKillop College



Policy: Curriculum Review and Renewal

Introduction

We recognise that curriculum evolves over time and in response to changing individual, community and global needs/requirements. We understand the importance is ensuring curriculum is vital, functional, educationally sound and relevant. Our Mission Statement states our College position: *“Our community invites passionate engagement in lifelong and authentic learning. We acknowledge diversity of potential and are responsive to individual needs. Every member of our community is supported in the pursuit of excellence. Emerging trends will be discerned as a means of offering an educational experience that is dynamic, flexible and relevant.”*

Objective

As a College community, it is of paramount importance that we continually review curriculum to ensure the validity and educational soundness of our individual and school-wide pedagogy. The review process will determine what curriculum is retained and that which must be renewed to accommodate individual, community and global requirements.

We undertake to keep abreast of current educational practice, best practice and future directions, to evaluate developing curriculum, to implement that which represents well-researched best practice where it complements our curriculum vision and to adhere to the curriculum directives of the educational bodies under whose authority we fall.

Principles

- Each teacher should evaluate the curriculum in the real practice of the classroom and be active in the Domain dialogue on curriculum, citing specific aspects that should be renewed and raising any general concerns
- Curriculum is informally reviewed by each Domain on a continual basis at meetings through dialogue and written communiqués.
- Curriculum is formally reviewed annually by each Domain with the view to removing aspects that have become defunct or irrelevant and renewing the curriculum with appropriate material/concepts/skills
- The whole-school curriculum is reviewed continually by the Deputy Principals (Learning & Teaching) and measured against new developments in curriculum as they arise.
- Curriculum directions introduced by D.E.E.T are explored by the leadership team in order to
 - Determine the value of such directions
 - Determine how much of the directions are relevant, applicable and appropriate to the existing College curriculum
 - Formulate a means by which relevant aspects can be assumed into the College curriculum
 - Ensure the presentation of such directions to staff is appropriate and relevant
 - Assist and advise Domain Leaders and staff in the implementation of renewed curriculum in their specific disciplines

Implementation

i) Principal commitment

The Principal is responsible for ensuring that:

- The objectives of this policy are integrated into practice
- There is sufficient support for the processes of curriculum review and renewal

ii) Staff commitment

The Deputy Principal is responsible for:

- Researching and receiving information on curriculum practice and implementation
- Disseminating information to relevant parties
- Leading the whole-school curriculum review
- Measuring the existing curriculum against new developments in curriculum as they arise.
- Facilitating the Leadership team in their exploration of government curriculum directions
- Leading curriculum change where necessary

All staff will be responsible for:

- Monitoring the progress of the established curriculum in their own classroom practice
- Engaging the professional dialogue at Domain level
- Implementing curriculum review and renewal as directed by Domain Leaders, Curriculum Leadership Team and the Deputy Principals (Learning & Teaching)
- Domain Leaders are responsible for establishing a frank and open dialogue on curriculum to enable review to be ongoing and for maintaining records to facilitate the annual curriculum review
- Domain Leaders are responsible for maintaining professional development of Domain staff in the area of curriculum
- Domain Leaders are responsible for supporting and mentoring staff in their implementation of curriculum review and renewal.

Review Date

This Policy will be reviewed in: January 2009

Signature

Rory Kennedy
(Principal)

Date: _____