



# CURRICULUM POLICY

## PURPOSE

Gardenvale Primary School's objectives as outlined in the Strategic Plan are:

To maximise each individual student's growth in all areas of their learning

To ensure our students are motivated, confident, curious, enthusiastic global thinkers, who are strongly connected to our school community.

## OBJECTIVE

To outline the core teaching and learning that underpins classroom practice at Gardenvale Primary School.

## SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff and students at Gardenvale Primary School.

## POLICY

### Curriculum

Gardenvale Primary School uses the Victorian Curriculum to guide teaching and learning.

### English

The school provides a comprehensive curriculum that enables differentiation to meet individual student needs. Instructional models used across the school include:

- CAFÉ (Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expand Vocabulary) reading program
- Guided Reading
- VCOP (Vocabulary, Comprehension, Openers & Punctuation)
- '7 Steps of Writing' writing framework
- SMART (Say, Meaning, Analyse, Remember, Teach) spelling program.

### Mathematics

Authentic mathematical experiences include problem solving, rich assessments, hands-on learning, number fluency, differentiated learning activities (such as maths workshops), and open ended tasks in the focus areas of number, statistics and probability, measurement and geometry.

### Inquiry Learning

Gardenvale Primary School has developed its own comprehensive framework for Inquiry Learning to address the domains of science, history, design and technology, civics and citizenship, and health and the cross-curricular priorities of Sustainability together with Asian and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

The four throughlines and focus questions across the school are:

- Personal Identity and Wellbeing – How can I be the best version of me?
- Environmental Sustainability – How can we care for our world?
- The Physical World – How does the world work?
- Social Responsibility – How do we learn from and live with others?

### Specialist Teachers and Programs

Specialist teachers provide instruction in Physical Education, Language (Japanese), Visual Arts and Music/Performing Arts. Interdisciplinary, personal and social learning are addressed within these



domains and supported by a range of outdoor education camps, excursion and in-visit initiatives, choirs, ski camp and a biennial Japanese tour. The school is an active participant in district sport competitions. A school musical is held every second year and involves all Year 5 and 6 students as well as two students from each class.

Gardenvale Primary School runs an Expert-in-Residence program. This focuses on a variety of curriculum areas eg coding, environment, theatre, writing, mindfulness and provides professional development for teachers and parents.

The school runs a BYOD (bring your own device) program for Years 4 to 6.

### **Support and Enrichment**

The school offers a number of different initiatives to support students working below and above expected levels. A Learning Enrichment teacher and Teacher Aide support programs in English. Support and enrichment within a year level takes place through a differentiated program and small group explicit teaching practices. Individual Learning Plans are constructed for students receiving extensive adjustments outside of the everyday classroom curriculum.

### **Planning**

Professional Learning Teams ensure the scope and sequence of each learning area of the curriculum is developed and implemented across their year level. Non-negotiables are established in key curriculum areas to ensure consistency across the school. A school wide Peer Observation, Learning Walks and professional development programs are used to support and guide teachers in curriculum implementation.

The school has School Improvement Teams with a leader and teacher membership from each level of the school. These teams focus on English, Mathematics, Inquiry learning, Assessment and Reporting. The Student Well Being team comprises of all specialist staff. The school also has an active team driving the environment and sustainability initiatives and ensuring the school maintains its sustainable schools accreditation.

The Leadership Team is focused on four-year planning cycles, as guided by the School Strategic Plan, and continuous analysis of a range of data sets around school improvement. At this level there is an integration of long term planning around fiscal management, workforce planning and school structures.

The school has developed a structured approach to curriculum planning that ensures a shared vision within the school on curriculum development, common documentation, and common understanding of the whole-school curriculum by teachers and parents.

### **Assessment and Reporting**

Assessment is the ongoing process of gathering, analysing and interpreting, using and reflecting on data to make informed and consistent judgements about learners' progress and achievement. Teachers plan for and conduct a wide range of assessment and reporting activities to support student learning and development, as outlined in the school Assessment Schedule. Individual and cohort data including Naplan is analysed on a regular basis during planning and team meetings, whole staff sessions and moderation.

Formal reporting provides comprehensive information about student learning and achievement in different forms. Student reports are provided to parents/carers twice a year to strengthen partnerships between home and school, and to provide meaningful communication about student



learning needs. Pastoral Care interviews are held at the start of the year and parent teacher interviews are held during Term 2.

The Annual School Report provides the school community with a summary of the school's achievements and progress each year.

Ongoing information about our school curriculum and classroom learning is regularly communicated to the community via the school newsletter, classroom blogs and curriculum information nights.

Whole school performance data including Naplan, student, staff and parent surveys are analysed across all teams in the school.

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

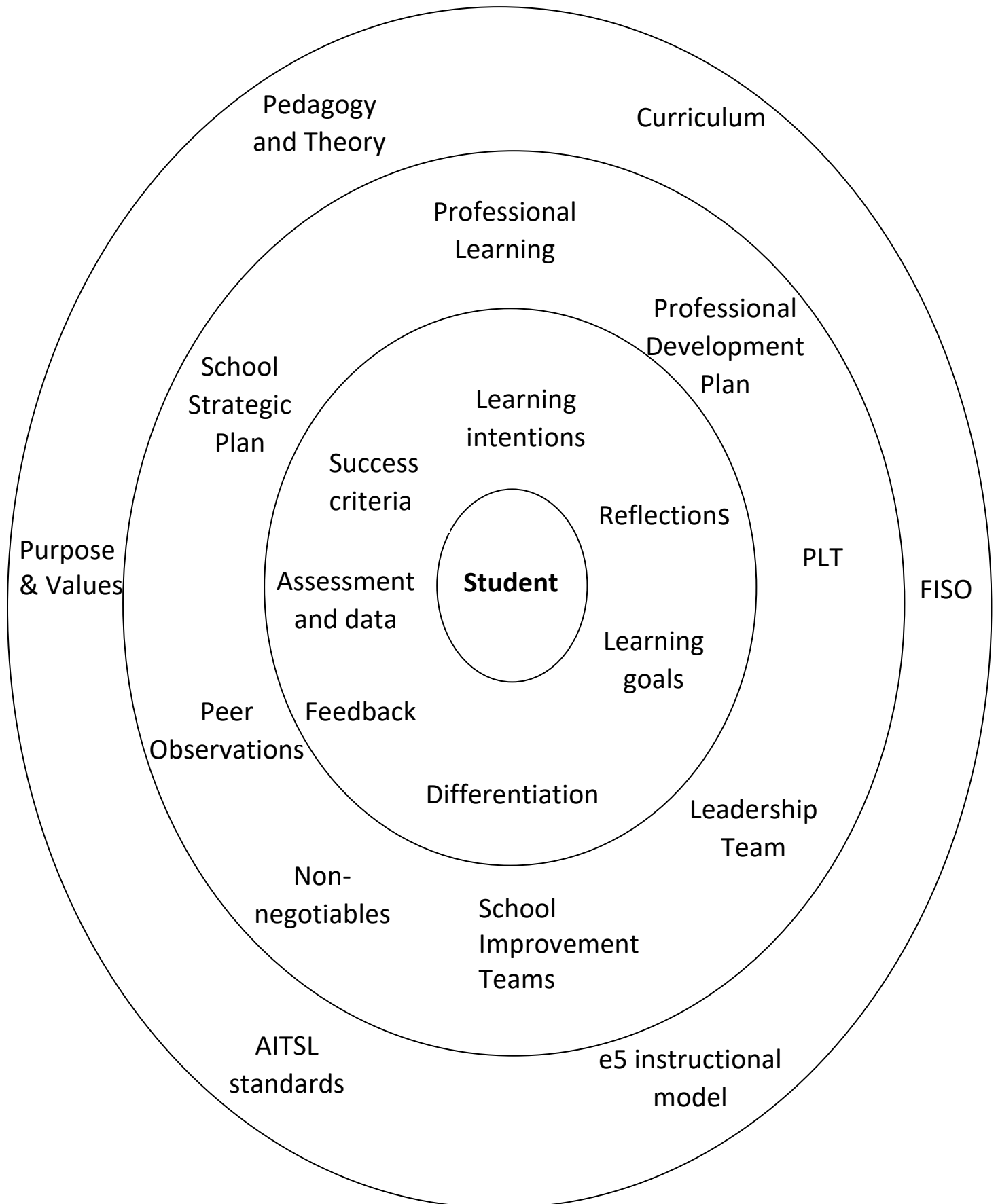
- School Strategic Plan
- Annual Implementation Plan
- Annual Report to the community
- Victorian Curriculum F-10 <http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>

## REVIEW CYCLE

- This policy was last updated in June 2019, approved by School Council and is scheduled for review in June 2022.



# Teaching and Learning at Gardenvale Primary School





## Gardenvale Primary School - Inquiry Model

