



Catholic
Parish of
Nagambie

Growing in the Spirit Together

St. Mary's Avenel

St. Malachy's Nagambie

St. Joseph's School Nagambie



St. Joseph's School

367 High Street, Nagambie 3608

Tel: (03) 5794 2608

Fax: (03) 5794 1435

Mob: 0417 489 577

Email: principal@sjnagambie.catholic.edu.au

Website: www3.sjnagambie.catholic.edu.au

Science Policy

Policy developed: 01-09-14

Policy to be reviewed: 2017

Identity Statement.

St Joseph's School is a Catholic Community in the Josephite tradition where we learn and grow in the Spirit together.

Vision Statements.

St Joseph's School strives to be an educating community:

- Where the total development of each child is nurtured.
- Where an environment of trust, respect, hope and safety is built.
- Where families and the school work in partnership sharing the responsibility to educate the child.
- Where school life is an integral part of parish and the wider community.
- Where the students learn in a challenging, enjoyable and cooperative way.
- Where the teachings of Jesus are taught, modeled and lived.

Graduate Outcomes.

St Joseph's students learn to become:

- Problem solving, inquiring, critical thinkers striving to be their best.
- Competent and ethical users of technology.
- Hope filled, independent, resourceful, creative, resilient and confident young people.
- Knowledgeable and appreciative of the Catholic faith.
- Socially adept, respectful, just, environmentally conscious and appreciative of diversity.

Rationale:

Science is a body of knowledge built up through the experimental testing of ideas. Science is also methodology, a practical way of finding reliable answers to questions we may ask about the world around us. Science in our school is about developing children's ideas and ways of working that enable them to make sense of the world in which they live through investigation, as well as using and applying process skills.

We believe that a broad and balanced science education is the entitlement of all children.

Aims:

Our aims in teaching science include the following.

- Preparing our children for life in an increasingly scientific and technological world.
- Fostering concern about, and active care for, our environment.
- Helping our children acquire a growing understanding of scientific ideas.
- Helping develop and extend our children's scientific concept of their world.
- Developing our children's understanding of the international and collaborative nature of science.

Implementation:

Opportunities:

The Science component of the curriculum provides opportunities for students to:

- Observe carefully in order to gather data.
- Use a variety of instruments and tools to measure data accurately.
- Use scientific vocabulary to explain their observations and experiences.
- Identify or generate a question or problem to be explored.
- Plan and carry out systematic investigations, manipulating variables as necessary.
- Make predictions and hypotheses.
- Interpret and evaluate data gathered in order to draw conclusions.
- Consider scientific models and applications (including their limitations).
- Become confident and competent users of ICT in science learning.

How science is structured through the school:

Planning for science is a process in which all teachers are involved to ensure that the school gives full coverage of the AusVELS Curriculum. Science teaching in the school is about excellence and enjoyment. We adapt and extend the curriculum to match the unique circumstances of our school. We incorporate our 'Living Classroom' and the teaching/support of our parent interest into the Science component of our curriculum. Sustainability plays a large part in the focus of Science in our school and ICT is widely used and incorporated into our inquiry work.

AusVELS breaks Science down into 3 components, which are to be covered throughout the year. These are: Science Understanding, Science as a Human Endeavour and Science Inquiry Skills.

Assessment & Recording in Science:

Out Inquiry Units generally begin with an assessment of what the children already know and what they would like to learn. Many forms of assessment are used throughout the units of work and these are used in the monitoring and recording of student's results and in reporting to parents. Some of these assessments include: observations, rubrics, self assessment, record keeping of results, enthusiasm/engagement for a topic, collecting work samples, experimenting and recording results, photo data and reporting against the AusVELS standards (in the appropriate year levels).

Resources:

As a school, we have many resources available for us to use/obtain and these include:

- Our 'Living Classroom'.
- An enthusiastic and willing supply of parent helpers and their knowledge.
- CEO personnel to support our knowledge and to help us plan our curriculum content.
- 'Kinship With The Earth' program.
- AusVELS guidelines (see curriculum server).
- Resource books in the Resource Room or Library.
- Science Kits – magnets, electrical circuit kits, microscopes, etc.
- Computer bank for research and recording of data.
- Support from each other.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed in line with our 'Policy Review Schedule'. All policies are stored on the curriculum server in the staff section, under the banner of Policies.