Teaching and Learning Policy

Statement of Purpose:

Alstonville High School aims to develop future citizens and leaders of our community who are active, life long learners.

We aim to develop individuals who are;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Values</th>
<th>Learning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Happy, healthy, safe and confident.</td>
<td>Literate and numerate.</td>
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<td>Responsible, disciplined and resilient.</td>
<td>Independent and organised.</td>
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<td>Valuers of excellence and achievement.</td>
<td>Creative and critical thinkers.</td>
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<td>Providing a fair go for all.</td>
<td>Effective communicators.</td>
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<td>Caring and compassionate.</td>
<td>Capable and innovative with technology.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Environmentally, socially and culturally aware.</td>
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In striving to meet the goals of the school goal statement teachers and support staff at Alstonville High School will need to reflect on and refine existing pedagogies and develop new pedagogies that optimise learning outcomes for all students.

Such pedagogies must promote a commitment to life-long learning and a spirit of enquiry in teachers and students.

Principles of Effective Learning

- Effective teaching is driven by a detailed knowledge of effective learning
- Effective learning is an interactive process of engagement, participation, reflection and action that:
  - Addresses the cognitive, moral, aesthetic, civic, emotional and personal learning needs of all students
  - Takes account of the ways students learn by enhancing their range of learning strategies
  - Takes account of and builds on the prior learning of students
  - Values the student as a learner and a person

- Effective learning is most likely to occur when a learning environment is created where:
  - Teachers have high expectations of all students
  - Students are given time to learn
  - Students are challenged and experience success
  - Students feel safe and valued
  - Positive and enduring student teacher relationships are established
  - Interactions between learner and teacher are characterised by mutual respect, trust and shared commitment to excellence and the value of learning
  - Students are encouraged to innovate and take risks in their learning
• Students understand how to learn and take responsibility for their own learning
• Students are motivated, committed and engaged
• There is a clear purpose for learning which is understood by each learner
• Effective, meaningful and relevant teaching strategies are implemented
• Learning experiences are structured, meaningful and varied
• Students are provided with explicit feedback on their learning
• Students understand the assessment process and the criteria for success

• Effective learning has occurred when each learner:
  • Has integrated prior and new information to form new knowledge
  • Is able to apply new knowledge and understandings in a range of relevant contexts
  • Is able to explain new concepts and demonstrate new skills to others in a meaningful way

Principles for Effective Teaching

Effective teaching is fundamental to effective learning.

• Effective teaching is characterised by teachers who:
  • Believe all students can learn and have high expectations of learners
  • Understand and apply a repertoire of teaching strategies which are appropriate for each learning context, curriculum content and learning needs and style of their students
  • Build positive relationships with their students based on mutual respect and trust
  • Understanding the learning process and use this knowledge to implement appropriate teaching strategies
  • Have up-to-date knowledge of their subject matter
  • Are enthusiastic proponents of curriculum content to engage and motivate learners
  • Understand and apply the standards expressed in syllabus stages and outcomes to plan, deliver and assess learning programs
  • Make explicit the purposes and expectations of student learning and provide regular feedback on performance and learning outcomes
  • Monitor individual learning and use student learning outcomes information to plan and implement future teaching and learning strategies
  • Help students to make connections, to understand relationships within and between content areas, and to deal with general principles and concepts as well as individual facts
  • Reflect critically on their own teaching and learning and commit themselves to improving their pedagogical practices
  • Use a range of appropriate technologies to enhance student learning
  • Promote partnerships between the school, the home and the community