Doncaster Gardens Primary School
Teaching and Learning Policy

Philosophical Basis:
At Doncaster Gardens Primary School, we believe that teaching and learning occurs in a secure, harmonious, stimulating and challenging environment. The practices and resources of the school are directed towards this purpose, always keeping in mind that research-based evidence states that students’ learning is greatly affected by the quality of teaching that they experience. Teachers must therefore ensure that their teaching skills, knowledge and commitment are of the highest standard.

Guidelines:
Teachers will work individually and in teams to provide the best learning experiences possible for our students so that they are able to:

• be happy, self-motivated and responsible students whose talents and capacities are developed to their full potential
• become articulate, independent, critical thinkers who can communicate ideas effectively and act upon decisions
• be co-operative, confident students who show a respect for others and develop positive self-esteem
• be actively involved in developing life-long learning skills
• become effective global citizens who can communicate and collaborate widely using the latest technology available.

This can achieved when teachers commit to:

• providing a happy and secure environment where everyone is valued
• building on children’s previous knowledge and experience
• catering for individual differences thereby maximising opportunities for all students to learn
• encouraging the development of self-esteem and confidence
• encouraging children to become risk takers
• challenging children to reach their maximum potential by setting achievable goals
• encouraging creativity
• employing a variety of teaching approaches and strategies
• encouraging children to be actively involved in the learning process
• providing children with positive and constructive feedback
• ensuring that all learning is purposeful and meets the needs of all children
• emphasising learning enjoyment and a sense of fun
• encouraging children to learn from and model their behaviour on positive role models

Implementation:
Teachers will:

• foster positive relationships with students and parents and actively encourage home-school partnerships to support learning and welfare
• cater for individual differences, ability and development by building on prior experiences and setting realistic goals.
• enable students to build connections between the different curriculum areas so that their learning is meaningful, develops thinking skills and allows them to take responsibility for their own learning
• motivate children to learn through inquiry and to be actively involved in their learning
• place emphasis on the process of learning, as well as the content and the outcomes
• model learning strategies, skills, values and attitudes
• present learning situations as meaningful, supportive and relevant to students’ needs
• base their teaching practices on an understanding of current educational theory, the AusVELS curriculum and school policies
• include the use of ICTs as learning tools in all curriculum areas
• work together to share useful practices, to develop quality programs and evaluate teaching in a cooperative and supportive manner

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• be willing to undertake and be responsible for their own ongoing professional learning, to meet both personal and school needs in order to expand and refine their skills
• carry out ongoing comprehensive assessments of the students’ progress, and constantly reflect on their own teaching with the aim of continuous improvement
• use assessment results and other data to inform their teaching, so as to cater for the individual learning needs of students.

Evaluation:
• This policy will be reviewed every three years as part of the policy review cycle.