

LIFE SKILLS

POLICY

Rationale:

Some students struggle with the day-to-day life skills that will allow them to function successfully in the community, that others take for granted. A targeted Life Skills program for identified 'at risk' students provides much needed additional assistance.

Aims:

- To improve the basic, everyday Life Skills of identified 'at risk' students to levels that will enable them to cope successfully in the wider community.

Implementation:

- The Life Skills program teaches students skills such as turn takings, sharing, coping with winning and losing, making and developing friendships, shopping, cooking, road safety, public transport, handling money, measurement, quantities and personal hygiene.
- Due to the intense nature of the Life Skills program, groups will be limited to 6 students.
- Students who receive Disabilities funding, and would benefit from a Life Skills program, will receive the highest priority for inclusion in the program.
- Students who qualify for the Disabilities program but don't receive Disabilities funding are the next highest priority to be involved in the Life Skills Program.
- The third highest priority for inclusion in the Life Skills Program are students who do not qualify for Disabilities funding, but are identified through a collaborative process coordinated by the Disabilities coordinator as being 'at risk' with regards life skills and their interaction in the community.
- The Life Skills program is to be given a high priority, although disruptions to the classroom and specialist programs are to be kept to a minimum.
- The program provides for students from Year 2 and above, although exceptions may be made.
- The Life Skills program will have a weekly session focussing on cooking, social skills or physical development.
- The Life Skills program uses sources such as the Vineland Adaptive Behaviour Scales as a basis for skills to be developed.
- The Cooking Skills program will mainly focus on healthy food selection, cooking skills and hygiene skills.
- The Social Skills will focus mainly on personal hygiene, personal awareness, turn taking, social interactions and some domestic tasks, as well as basic community functions such as crossing the road, shopping, catching a bus, using a telephone, visiting a bank etc.
- The Physical Development Skills will focus mainly on kinesiology and fine and gross motor skill development.
- Life Skills is managed and implemented by the Disabilities coordinator and aides.
- The activities and program are funded from the Disabilities budget. Parents may be asked to pay for items or activities from time to time.
- Parent consent will be required whenever a local excursion occurs.

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on....

November 2014