INQUIRY LEARNING POLICY

RATIONALE
Inquiry Learning involves students focusing on self- and teacher-directed questions about a unit of work and having time to investigate the answers. Children will further develop research skills and problem solving skills using the Inquiry Learning approach to become independent learners. We believe that students are powerful learners who must be actively engaged in the process of investigating, processing, organising, synthesising, refining, applying and extending their knowledge within a unit of work.

AIMS
• The Inquiry Learning process is a collaborative process in which both students and teachers work together, negotiating aspects of the curriculum.
• Inquiry Learning involves the integration of the AusVELS standards and domains.
• Professional Learning Teams (PLT) and Specialist teachers will use the skills identified in AusVELS and the cyclic planner to scaffold individual learning and develop deeper understandings with a focus on developing high level cognitive thinking skills.

IMPLEMENTATION
• All students will participate in learning experiences based on the Inquiry Learning planners.
• Teachers are encouraged to access Principles of Learning and Teaching (PoLT), AusVELS guidelines, and a range of ICT programs and tools.
• PLT’s will collaboratively decide on report statements and learning outcomes to be used in June and December reports in relation to Inquiry Learning.
• PLT’s will oversee the budget and resources related to the Inquiry Learning undertaken in their team.
• Planning documents for Inquiry Learning will have key understandings and skills identified in line with AusVELS.
• PLT’s will have stand alone Literacy and Numeracy planners with an Inquiry Learning approach integrated in an authentic and meaningful manner, in addition to the Inquiry Learning unit planner.

EVALUATION/REVIEW
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year cycle of review.

Ratified by Bellbridge Primary School Council – November 2013

Principal: Debbie Clancy                     School Council President: Kerri Cahoon