LITERACY Policy

RATIONALE
Literacy is essential to effectively function in our society. An English program consists of Reading, Writing (including spelling, punctuation and grammar, handwriting and different forms of writing) and Speaking and Listening. A quality English program develops the necessary skills for real life.

GOALS
The English program aims to:

• Maximise literacy potential by providing planned, sequential and explicit teaching of Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening.
• Foster a lifelong enjoyment of reading while developing the skills to read and comprehend for a real life purpose.
• Develop the ability to effectively communicate verbally and in written form.
• Provide challenging and engaging literacy activities to promote confident, articulate and independent students.

IMPLEMENTATION
• Use the Australian Essential Learning Standards (AusVELS) and National Curriculum guidelines to determine the sequential learning focus of a P-6 English program.
• Provide a weekly program that consists of regular focused learning in the literacy block which includes at least 10 hours of instruction.
• The application of Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening skills will be developed as part of the Inquiry Learning plan.
• Planned daily English sessions must be flexible, ‘hands on’ and open ended to provide opportunities for students to apply key skills to enhance their understanding of literacy concepts.
• Provide specific teaching of the Victorian Modern Cursive Handwriting script as appropriate to each year level.
• Appropriate texts and tasks will be used for explicit teaching.
• All students will have access to school based practices and resources to support English learning. Resources include classroom libraries, literacy walls, reading/writing conference journals, spelling investigations, guided reading book sets and computer programs.
• Continuous, ongoing assessment will be used to form needs based groups that will cater for individual students.
• Scheduled evaluation (e.g. Online English Testing and Literacy Assessment Schedule) will occur within grade levels and across grade levels to monitor student learning (as per the annual assessment schedule).

ACHIEVEMENT MEASURES
• Student achievement against AusVELS and the National Standards
• National Benchmarks and NAPLAN data for Years 3 and 5
• Online English Testing for Years Prep to 2
• Adaptive online testing

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

Ratified by Bellbridge Primary School Council – November 2014

School Council President: Ellisa Cole            Principal: Debbie Clancy