POLICY: LANGUAGE (DROUIN AND DISTRICT CLUSTER)

1. STATEMENT OF BELIEF:
Students within the Drouin and District Cluster (Drouin Secondary College / Drouin Primary School / Drouin South Primary School / Drouin West Primary School / Garfield Primary School / Bunyip Primary School / Poowong Primary School / Lardner Primary School) need to be provided with a Language program through their educational pathway.
This is made up of the following key components:
1.1 The Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) requires that the learning program in all Victorian government schools at every year level from Prep (Foundation) to Year 10 will include the study of a language in addition to English by 2012, starting with Prep in 2015.
1.2 The DEECD recommends schools study an Asian language. The Drouin and District Cluster endorses Japanese as the language to be common between the schools.
1.3 Learning a second language develops an understanding of how languages work which leads to improved literacy skills, including English literacy.
1.4 Learning a second language teaches students about other peoples, their ideas and ways of thinking, inspires interest in and respect for other cultures and contributes to social cohesiveness through better communication and understanding.

2. OBJECTIVES:
2.1 To for partnerships to maximise student access to and improve the quality of languages programs in Cluster schools.
2.2 To enable students to experience continuity in languages learning from primary school years into senior secondary schooling.
2.3 To build stronger links with the school community, the broader regional and internationally.
2.4 To build collaboration between schools, in and across the cluster, allowing schools to share resources and ideas.
2.5 To create language learning pathways and continuity for students moving between schools in the Cluster locally and in the transition from primary to secondary education.

3. IMPLEMENTATION:
3.1 Schools within the Drouin and District Cluster will work collaboratively to resource the Language program including:
a) Developing cooperative arrangements to share qualified Japanese languages teachers,
b) Curriculum planning resources (for example, linking students and teachers from different schools to undertake learning activities) to ensure consistency and continuity,
c) Sharing the use of Information and Communication Technology and hard copy resources, including the flexible delivery by video/web conferencing to support languages teaching and learning,
3.2 Schools not currently teaching Japanese will begin implementation at Grade Prep in 2015, building the program through successive levels each year.
3.3 The Cluster will work to attract, employ and retain quality languages teachers.
3.4 The Cluster will explore the use of language assistants and volunteers to support the languages program.

This policy was last reviewed by School Council in: 2014
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3.5 The Cluster will provide opportunities for authentic language experiences for students, such as through a sister school relationship or links with speakers of the language in the local and wider community.

4. EVALUATION:

This Policy will be reviewed by the Education Policy Committee as part of the schools’ four year cycle.