



# ALBANY RISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Play-based Learning in the Early Years policy

RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL: March 21<sup>st</sup> 2018

REVIEW DATE: 2021

### PURPOSE:

Research and evidence all point to the role of play in children's development and learning across cultures (Shiple, 2008). Many believe that it is impossible to separate children's play from learning and development. The intellectual and cognitive benefits of playing have been well documented.

- 1.1 To provide early learning activities that requires students to engage in active-play which includes action: physical, verbal or mental engagement with materials, people, ideas or the environment.
- 1.2 To allow students to explore, identify, negotiate, take risks and create meaning.
- 1.3 To provide physically active play which allows children to test and develop all types of motor skills and promote significant health and wellbeing benefits.
- 1.4 To allow students with special needs to engage in learning and developmental activities specifically catering to their needs.

### GUIDELINES:

- 2.1 Play based learning encompasses a range of learning activities and is a priority aspect of the School Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan. Play based learning is a research based approach to developmental learning which links to oral language, literacy and social/emotional development.
- 2.2 Albany Rise Primary School play based learning tasks and planning relate to the research of leaders in the field, including Kathy Walker's 'Walker Learning Approach'.
- 2.3 The play based learning program at Albany Rise Primary school will be coordinated by team leaders in the Foundation- Year 2 teams.
- 2.4 Foundation- Year 2 staff will maintain, improve and develop a learning environment that encourages peer interaction, oral language and play based learning using a range of resources.
- 2.5 Staff will be encouraged to take part in Professional Learning in relation to play based learning.
- 2.6 A Play Based Learning program budget will be developed by staff and resourced by school council.
- 2.7 Play Based Learning will be timetabled into the curriculum. These learning sessions will be planned, purposeful and link directly to Literacy, Numeracy and Inquiry units, and be in line with the Victorian curriculum.
- 2.8 The Play Based Learning Coordinators will communicate with parents and the school community to outline the purpose and intended outcomes of the program.
- 2.9 The program will be designed to target students individual needs, school priorities and address foci in the School Strategic Plan.

### References:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/professionals/learning/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.earlychildhoodaustralia.org.au/our-publications/every-child-magazine/every-child-index/every-child-vol-16-3-2010/play-based-learning-free-article/>

<http://earlylife.com.au/info/section/walker-learning>

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

School Council President: \_\_\_\_\_

Date ratified by School Council: \_\_\_\_\_ Masrch 21<sup>st</sup> 2018

To be reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_ 2021 \_\_\_\_\_