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Educating today's Minds for Tomorrow's Challenges

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SPELLING

POLICY

Lake Charm Primary School Spelling Statement

The Teaching and Learning of Spelling at Lake Charm Primary will be based on the identified learning needs of the students individually and collectively.

Spelling instruction will be in response to both formal periodic testing and everyday observation of student writing.

The whole program should be based on teaching only what is relevant and required at each student's particular level of mastery. Students should only be working on those words/word groups that are appropriate to their needs as identified through their writing and formal tests.

The ability to confidently spell high frequency words is considered as a high priority throughout all levels of the school.

Beginners – Initially students will begin with learning to read and spell the Magic Words. A series of high frequency words. On completion of the Magic Words students will work through the Oxford Wordlist, which are the 307 most frequently used words collected from over 4000 writing samples of students in their first three years of school. Students and teachers will maintain records of individual student's progress.

After completing the Magic Words all students are to be tested using the SWST test (Single word spelling test). Each spelling test is composed of a set of words that are graded in difficulty. SWST testing will take place at least each term.

Errors should be identified and analysed. Errors are to be mapped on word list charts for students and teachers. The chart will indicate the particular visual and phonological patterns that the student is having difficulties with eg.ible words, gh words.

Students will in consultation with the teacher work out activities to help them master the problem word groups eg. Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check. Word searches. Testing with a partner. Making charts etc.

At all levels of the Primary School spelling should also be emanating from the needs of the student as expressed through their daily writing. All students will have regular opportunity to write using a broad range of texts. This writing will be analysed to determine the individual learning needs of each child, including their spelling learning needs.

Appropriate learning will take place to extend each student's vocabulary/store of words that they use in their writing. Accordingly the Spelling Program aims to build this store of words that the students can confidently spell in their writing, and to develop in the students enough strategies to enable them to be self-improving spellers.

An important component of the Spelling Program is to develop each student's editing skills. Students will be given instruction as to how to self-edit their work, and will be assisted to use spelling aids such as computer spell checks and dictionaries. Students in the senior grades will be expected to be proficient in the use of a range of spelling aids.

This policy was ratified by School Council on 9th June 2015

School Council President Leanne Cordina