

...Understanding Children...

At Seven Hills State School we believe that:

- Every child is a unique individual with different learning styles, abilities and interests.
- Children come from diverse backgrounds which may be reflected in a variety of different values, beliefs, expectations and roles within their family.
- Although there are recognizable developmental stages throughout childhood, children will develop and progress at individual rates.
- Children are active participants in their own learning and naturally inquisitive and learn by interacting with people and objects in their environment.
- Children construct meaning about the world around them through play and hands on active engagement.
- Children enter school with a wealth of prior knowledge and experiences.
- The school experience should positively influence the development of children's self-concepts.
- Children learn best when they feel safe and happy.
- Professional Development and networking with early years staff needs to be continued.

This means that at Seven Hills State School we will:

- Offer children a responsive curriculum that reflects current understandings about children and how they learn and develop.
- Maintain a safe and friendly environment that is inviting to children and parents.
- Consider individual interests, needs and abilities when providing learning experiences.
- Provide learning experiences which reflect a variety of social and cultural backgrounds.
- Cater for a variety of learning styles and developmental levels when planning activities.
- Plan balanced learning programs which consider all aspects of a child's development.
- Recognise and celebrate the achievements of all children.
- Value play and open-ended hands on activities where risk taking is encouraged as important vehicle for learning.
- Provide opportunities for children to interact with a variety of people and equipment in different settings.
- Build upon knowledge and skills gained prior to the school experience.
- Have a genuine regard for cultural differences, abilities and achievements in all areas.
- Children require equitable access to resources which are needs appropriate.
- Explicitly teach social skills and positive communication using common language and teaching strategies.



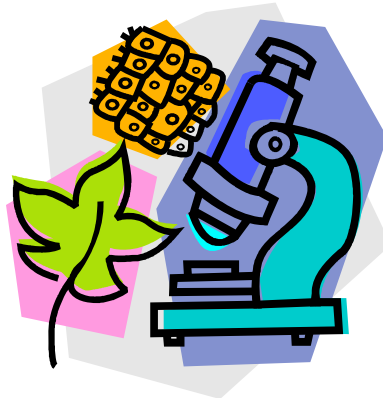
...How Children Learn Best...

At Seven Hills State School we believe that:

- Children learn best when actively involved, doing, listening, discovering, interacting.
- Literacy, numeracy and thinking are embedded in all learning areas.
- With experience, children's play changes to become more socially and intellectually complex.
- Teachers need to plan for extended periods for children to engage in play contexts so that their learning becomes increasingly complex.
- Play contexts provide opportunities for children to explore learnings from a range of learning areas and transfer learning from one situation to another.
- Play provides a medium for teachers to monitor and assess learning.
- As children become independent learners they will attempt to seek information, complete tasks, solve own problems and work independently.

This means that at Seven Hills State School we will:

- Provide opportunities for a wide variety of play types which extend children's ideas and interests promoting interaction, problem solving and oral communication.
- Encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning and develop independent learning styles.



...Building Relationships...

At Seven Hills State School we believe that:

- There are many partnerships including home/school, child/child, child/care giver, child/staff, staff/staff, staff/administration, school/P & C, school/community to consider.
- Mutually respectful relationships need to be fostered between the home, school and community.
- Effective communication can take many forms and is essential in maintaining positive partnerships.
- Children model behaviours and develop self-concepts through interactions with others.
- Parents/care givers significantly contribute to their child's education.
- A sense of unity and cohesiveness within the school is conducive to learning taking place.
- Interactions between classes and joint activities are important factors in establishing cohesion and shared curriculum practices.
- Volunteers have a significant and valued role in the curriculum process.

This means that at Seven Hills State School we will:

- Use a variety of procedures to consult with and inform parents and community about school issues.
- Provide regular community/parent information sessions to share knowledge about the negotiated early years curriculum and other topics of interest.
- Model and encourage appropriate positive interactions between students, staff, parents and community members.
- Provide opportunity for peer mentoring through family/multi age groupings and activities.
- Facilitate open communication between home and school.
- Invite and encourage parental and community involvement in school activities.
- Assist parents to become more familiar with and understand new educational trends and processes and how they are developed.
- Encourage collaborative decision-making.
- Promote cooperation and collaboration between all year levels providing opportunities for children and parents to interact in a variety of contexts and share professional knowledge about children.
- Provide transitional activities between home-prep, prep-year one, lower-middle school.



....Establishing a Learning Environment...

At Seven Hills State School we believe that:

- The learning environment, indoors and outdoors needs to be physically safe and should promote participation, ownership, independence and stimulate children to do their best.
- Children need adequate space to express themselves and explore new concepts.
- Students, families and community members should feel welcome and comfortable in the school environment.
- Learning is most effective when the environment is flexible, supportive, non-threatening, challenging and child responsive.
- Establishing an Early Years precinct in desirable.

This means that at Seven Hills State School we will:

- Ensure furniture, resources and equipment is developmentally appropriate and well maintained.
- Create happy, safe learning spaces to cater for a wide range of learning styles.
- Promote and display children's work and learnings.
- Encourage students, families and community members to play an active role in caring for and improving school facilities and environment.
- Combine and share resources within the school to ensure all children have equal opportunities to access them.
- Access resources outside the school including GLC, Balmoral High.
- Promote responsible behaviour and encourage sensitivity to others.



...Creating Contexts for Learning...

At Seven Hills State School we believe that:

- Children learn best when actively engaged in real life or meaningful tasks.
- Explicit learning develops language for thinking.
- Children need to be given time to make links between prior knowledge and new experiences through play and active explorations.
- Children are intrinsically motivated when the curriculum is focused on their individual needs and interests.
- Children need to be encouraged to accept responsibility for their own learning, increase their capacity to seek information, solve own problems and work independently.
- Children have diverse strengths and learning styles and will achieve their potential at varying levels for different activities.
- School based curriculum is developed from Education Department documents to meet the needs and interests of students.
- The effectiveness of the curriculum delivered will be enhanced by staff that are skilled, tolerant, organized and use principles underpinned by productive pedagogies and effective learning and teaching.

This means that at Seven Hills State School we will:

- Provide a range of structured and exploratory learning contexts including play, real life activities, investigations, transitions, routines, focused learning and teaching.
- Respond to children's needs and interests identified through a negotiated curriculum, providing a balance of teacher directed and child initiated activities.
- Empower children as learners by allowing them to make choices and encouraging them to make connections between prior, current and future learning.
- Provide opportunities for self-reflection and evaluation of own efforts.
- Create a warm accepting classroom environment where all individuals can experience success.
- Develop individual education programs for students with special needs.
- Provide a variety of resources and mediums for learning in each classroom
- Work as a team with teachers, parents, specialist and support staff to best support each child.



...Exploring What Children Learn...

At Seven Hills State School we believe that:

- Information technology is constantly changing in our society and this has a direct impact upon the needs of learners.
- Changing aspects of family life and society impacts on the needs of learners.
- The development of numeracy and literacy skills is embedded in every aspect of the curriculum.
- Learning is integrated across all the Early Learning and Key Learning Areas learning areas.

This means that at Seven Hills State School we will:

- Review school based curriculum and practices regularly to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the students.
- Use school based curriculum organizers to plan integrated focuses for learning across the learning areas.
- Develop learning opportunities that allow children to explore and demonstrate identified outcomes.
- Develop programs that facilitate the development of the attributes of life long learners.
- Gather data about children's progress to inform future needs.



...Programs Unique to Seven Hills SS...

At Seven Hills State School we believe that:

- Special activities have a significant role in the curriculum.
- Excursions are important real life experiences for children.
- Parent participation and support is essential for the success of school events.
- 'Traditional' and 'trade mark' events which are repeated each year (including sports day, cross country, picnic days, under 8's day, Spring Day Out, concerts, 100 days of prep) need to be constantly evaluated and reviewed to ensure continued success and meet the needs and interests of families.
- Integrated activities from prep to year three contribute to the unique family orientated supportive atmosphere at Seven Hills State School.
- The Nature Club is a real life learning focus.

This means that at Seven Hills State School we will:

- Continue to develop integrated activities across prep to year three.
- Develop activities and culminating activities in consultation with parents to enhance the focused learning and teaching.
- Collaborate with parents and community to plan and improve school based activities and events.
- Integrate the environmental education focus of the Nature club into the classroom curriculum.

If you always do what you've

always done,

you'll always get what you've

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