



Hands On Learning Policy

RATIONALE:

Hands On Learning is an innovative education program that caters for the different ways young people learn. Skilled people work collaboratively with small groups of students on authentic projects that provide a platform for students to engage, grow confidence and achieve success at school.

Hands On Learning fosters strong, long term relationships that help young people develop the skills and abilities they need to succeed in work and life like collaboration, problem solving, communication, resilience and empathy. The program encourages students to stay and achieve at school.

AIMS:

- To provide a hands-on program for students at risk of disengaging from school.
- To provide a program suited to students requiring an applied learning approach.
- To actively engage students in practical and challenging activities.
- To build students' ability to develop positive relationships as well as build skills such as team work, responsibility, problem solving, communication and resilience.
- To encourage students to continue their education through to the highest levels possible.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- The program will be overseen by the Leading Teacher Student Engagement.
- The program will be managed by a designated teacher or education support member of staff. (HoL Manager)
- The program will be delivered, in consultation and under the overall guidance of the designated manager, by a person who has a range of practical skills and strong interpersonal capacity. (HoL Instructor)
- Students will be recommended to join the program by school staff. Decisions on who will be involved will be decided by the HoL Manager, HoL Instructor, and the Leading Teacher overseeing the program. Recommendations will be made to the principal for final approval.
- Students will be offered the opportunity to join the program based on at least one of the following:
 - At risk of disengagement from learning.
 - Poor record of attendance attributed to disengagement.
 - Personal and interpersonal issues.
 - Aptitude for applied learning.
 - Need/preference to work in small group settings.
 - Possible career pathways.
- A core set of projects will be determined for the program and additional projects will be planned, following consultation with students, by the Manager and Instructor.
- A cash budget will be set aside to support implementation of the HoL program.
- Projects must be realistic, manageable and within budgetary guidelines.
- Risk assessments must be carried out for all projects and approved by the HoL Manager and Principal prior to commencement.
- The program will be available to students in Years 7-9.
- Projects will be 'hands-on' within the capabilities of the age and skills of the students.
- Hands on Learning will be given a designated space.

EVALUATION

Minor review held annually focusing on number and eligibility of students and programing.

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or earlier as required.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on: 10th February 2021