

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Discovery Centre Policy

Rationale

At St. Francis Xavier Primary School, we aim to develop readers with varied reading tastes and a love of literature, reading and learning. Students are provided with opportunities to develop their reading skills through exposure to a broad range of genres and literary materials. By the completion of primary school, students will have experienced and be familiar with library operations enabling them to be confident, independent users of libraries.

The Discovery Centre is the central location for literature resources and catalogues teaching materials. It is essential the Discovery Centre is maintained and developed.

Purpose:

At St Francis Xavier, we aim to:

- provide a library for use by the school community that is modern, inviting, appropriately resourced and supports the educational aims and objectives of the school.
- create voracious readers who choose to borrow and read frequently for enjoyment and information.
- engage students in the study of literary texts of personal, cultural, social and aesthetic value, which in turn empowers them to become active citizens in the community.
- develop independent and flexible text selection skills.
- increase general knowledge - providing insight into the world from a wide range of literary texts.
- assist students to be familiar with all sections of libraries and how to access these areas, e.g. fiction, non-fiction etc.
- develop the students' understandings of the systems used to locate and borrow resources in a library.
- introduce works by notable Australian and international authors.

Implementation:

At St Francis Xavier Primary School:

- All students will participate in a 40-minute weekly lesson in the Discovery Centre.
- Students will be taught lessons based on the Victorian Curriculum - English - Reading and Viewing.
- Library skills will be taught in sequential order, reinforced at each level, with a hands-on approach and activities that allow for research, and development of skills and knowledge.
- Structured group activities will ensure students share ideas, communicate and expand their thinking.
- All students will participate in Book Week activities that further showcase new Australian titles. They will also be exposed to Australian authors and illustrators through incursions.
- Students are strongly encouraged to borrow books each week, ensuring as a school we are developing daily reading habits.
- The Discovery Centre Manager will be responsible for creating and implementing a Discovery Centre budget for the purchase of resources, and catalogue and maintain the collection.
- The collection must support the curriculum and also cater for personal reading interests.

Various forms of data collection will be used to assess student progress. This will include:

- Recording of discussions - Anecdotal notes.
- Recording of NCCD Adjustments.
- Observation of students using the Discovery Centre space.
- Work completed by students during class and feedback from them.
- Computer data from the Library Management System giving an assessment of students borrowing, return and genre selection.
- Each term, student work is shared with their family through Seesaw.
- Reports are written twice yearly based on the students learning.

Evaluation:

This policy will be revisited every odd year (e.g. 2025, 2027), reviewed as part of the school's review cycle or as changes are made to the Victorian curriculum.