Preamble/Rationale:
The practice of science is a global activity and part of everyday life. It is important that students are connected to this through their school curriculum. A fundamental goal for science education is to nourish curiosity, wonder and questioning.

Purpose:
• To acquire and use the skills of scientific investigation, reasoning and analysis to ask questions and seek solutions.
• To interpret and communicate scientific ideas effectively.
• To develop scientific attitudes such as flexibility, curiosity, critical reflection, respect for evidence and ethical considerations.
• To acquire scientific skills and conceptual knowledge.
• To develop an appreciation of the need to control variables in the context of ‘fair tests’ in order to reach justifiable conclusions.
• To appreciate the dynamic role of science in social and technological change.

Implementation:
• All students at our school will study a sequential Science program based upon VELS.
• Science activities should be hands on and should recognise that students construct their own understandings.
• The Science program should help the students work from the concrete and familiar to the abstract and unfamiliar.
• Safety needs to be taught and reinforced throughout the entire Science program.
• Science study for each student will be a minimum of one session per week.
• A budget that provides for the needs of the Science program will be developed and managed by staff.
• A staff member will be allocated the responsibility of coordinating and teaching the school’s Science program, including a whole school Family Science Evening.
• The Inquiry Model should be used when planning and implementing the Science Program.

Assessment:
• Assessment in Science using VELS will be ongoing – checklists, anecdotal notes, tests
• Progression points and rubrics will be used.

This policy was ratified by School Council in 2008
This policy will be reviewed in 2011