



# THE LAKES SOUTH MORANG P-9 SCHOOL

## Middle Years Program Policy

### Rationale:

- The period of adolescence that coincides with the Middle Years of schooling (Years 5-9) represents a critical phase of development in students' lives. For a significant number of students this period of rapid emotional, physical and intellectual development often coincides with a lack of engagement at schools, underachievement and feelings of disenchantment with the education system. In order to address this issue, schools must reconsider their current position and work collaboratively to develop strategies which cater for the needs of all students undertaking the middle years of schooling.

### Aims:

- To ensure our approach to schooling in the Middle Years maximises student engagement, achievement and enjoyment.

### Implementation:

- Our school recognises the issues relating to underperformance and disengagement of some students during the Middle Years of schooling, and has provided realistic, rich and relevant teaching and learning programs to address the problem.
- It is further recognised that success in this project relies upon strong partnerships and professional relationships being developed with the Early Years team, local primary schools and teachers within the Mill Park Cluster.
- A Middle Years coordinator will be responsible for coordinating the Middle Years project.
- A joint strategic plan that comprises action areas responding to student engagement, school improvement and teacher professionalism, will be developed in partnership with all feeder primary schools.
- Data derived from the PoLT student surveys and teaching component mapping will provide additional planning input and direction.
- Staff members involved in teaching students in the Middle Years are required to address all aspects of the Middle Years teaching and learning philosophy.
- A program budget will be allocated by school council to the Middle Years project, including funds for professional development as required.

### Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the school's regular review cycle, This policy has been endorsed by school council 15<sup>th</sup> April 2008