

## **ENGLISH PROGRAM**

### ***BASIC BELIEFS:***

- Language is best learnt when it is whole (not broken into component parts), meaningful and relevant to the learners.
- The quality of language is dependent upon the breadth and depth of experiences available to the child through both real life experiences and structured learning situations.
- The quality of language brought to School by children will be different and the product of their widely diverse pre-school backgrounds.
- Language is basic to learning in all curriculum areas. It is the primary medium through which we understand the world and through which culture is transmitted.
- Children learn language most effectively through immersion in a rich language environment.
- Children formulate their own rules about language by imitating others and by a process of experimentation.
- Children go through recognisable stages of language development.
- Listening, speaking, reading and writing are inter-related and inter-dependent.

### ***AIMS:***

- To develop in all children a desire and willingness to listen, speak, write and read for a variety of purposes.
- To develop competent independent and enthusiastic readers, writers, and speakers.
- To develop in all children a love of literature.
- To develop in children the ability to think critically.

### ***GUIDELINES FOR ACTION:***

To develop all aspects of language by:

- Providing a learning environment rich in experiences.
- Ensuring that reading and writing arise from the on-going experiences of the child.
- Providing opportunities for children to reflect upon experiences in a variety of ways - individually, in large groups, small groups, in pairs, with the teacher. Flexible organisation is necessary.
- Providing authentic contexts in literacy, i.e., ensuring language has real purpose and is for a real audience.
- Providing a warm, supportive school climate in which children can experiment with language - moving towards conventional language.
- Providing a wide range of language models.
- Inter-relating the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- Integrating all areas of the curriculum to ensure children learn and use language throughout the day.

**Endorsed by School Council 18/12/1988.**