



MERCY COLLEGE LITERACY STRATEGIC PLAN

2006 - 2008 – 2010

Mercy College is a community whose members work in partnership towards the education of young people. With Christ as our guiding light and in the spirit of Catherine McAuley, we seek to recognise, appreciate and develop the gifts of all in a spirit of collaboration, love and service. The College is committed to creating a climate where students can develop a love of learning. Our students are encouraged to be self-aware, tolerant, compassionate towards others and independent in thought and action, by contributing to the world in which they live and by maintaining a healthy lifestyle.
“The Glory of God is a person fully alive”

As a student centred College, we are dedicated to the life long education of the whole person. The multi-cultural life of Mercy College is acknowledged as both enriching the community and also providing challenges to ensure all students, regardless of background, have the opportunities to achieve to their potential.

Functional and critical literacy skills are essential to enable all students to achieve to their potential, in an educational context, in the workplace and as they take their place as citizen in the wider community. The Mercy College Literacy Strategic Plan has been informed by the vision of Mercy College and the following mission statements:

Critical Thinking Skills

Mercy College graduates show initiative in investigating, evaluating and making decisions from perceived alternatives, incorporating both independent and collaborative learning styles.

Literacy

Mercy College graduates are confident in their ability to use the English Language as a vehicle for communication, a tool for thinking, a means for creativity and a source of pleasure enabling them to communicate verbally and non-verbally in all aspects of reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing.

Definition of Literacy

The K-12 Literacy Strategy for Catholic Schools (p. 3) states that literacy is “mastery of a set of different communicative practices for specific purposes and particular situations. It involves **reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing** to **think and communicate** for specific purposes and particular situations.” The Literacy Strategic Plan for Mercy Colleges uses the three dimensions outlined in the K-12 Literacy Strategy for Catholic Schools (p. 3) to assist in defining, implementing and evaluating literacy strategies and skills:

Operational: “language systems, eg. spelling, grammar, vocabulary and punctuation”
Socio-cultural: “the connections we make between language, context and purpose”
Critical: “the way we use language to question and analyse”

Time-lines and Focus Areas

The Literacy Strategic Plan for Mercy College has been created to cover two year time spans to enable implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The wide range of ages, abilities and focus areas in a K-12 College demands a range of diverse strategies. To ensure the literacy needs of all students have been addressed the Mercy College Literacy Strategic Plan has been divided into the following categories:

- Junior Learning Centre
- Middle Learning Centre
- Senior Learning Centre
- Education Support
- Testing Procedures
- Future Focus

It is recognised that this is a working document, to be used as a guide and reference when implementing new strategies and evaluating existing strategies. The strategies laid down in this document may be reviewed and changed as deemed necessary by the Literacy Team.

JUNIOR LEARNING CENTRE 2006 – 2008	JUNIOR LEARNING CENTRE 2008 - 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies from RAISe used in classrooms • Continuation of Reading Recovery strategies • Assistant Principals offer literacy support • PIPs in pre-primary • Orientation of new staff • Campaign for parents in the classroom • Use of Literacy Net and Progress Maps to track reading, writing and spelling progress • Establishing literacy teaching in the wider curriculum • Hickey program for Education Support using a multi-sensory approach • After school tutoring for children experiencing difficulties • Synergy program for gifted and talented • Use of spelling journal, graphic organisers, standard formatting and bibliographies in Mercy Organiser for Year Six students • Citation (bibliographic software) promoted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early intervention in Kindy and Pre-Primary • Strategies from RAISe used in classrooms • Continuation of Reading Recovery strategies • Assistant Principals offer literacy support • PIPs in pre-primary • Orientation of new staff • Campaign for parents in the classroom • Hickey program for Education Support using a multi-sensory approach • After school tutoring for children experiencing difficulties • OB Survey all Year One students and children at risk below level 20 reading (Years Two and Three) • Use of spelling journal, graphic organisers, standard formatting and bibliographies in Mercy Organiser for Year Six students • <i>Citation</i> (bibliographic software) promoted to Year Six. • <i>Accelerated Reader</i> (software tool for reading and literacy skills) is part of the Year Six Reading program. • Book Fair and Children's Book Week celebrated in the library, including guest story tellers to promote the love of reading. • Weekly book exchange in the library.

MIDDLE LEARNING CENTRE 2006 – 2008	MIDDLE LEARNING CENTRE 2008 – 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of spelling journal, graphic organisers, standard formatting and bibliographies in Mercy Organiser • Academic Standards set out in Mercy Organiser • Citation (bibliographic software) promoted • Academic Awards promoted • Personal excellence promoted through Silver/Gold and Platinum awards • Exercise books introduced into Years Seven, Eight and Nine booklists to promote consistency and assist with organisation skills • Hickey program for Education Support using a multi-sensory approach • Orientation of new staff • After school tutoring for Aboriginal students • Year Eight ESL class established • Year Eight Education Support class established • SRA Reading program introduced into all Year Seven classes and Year Eight Education Support class • ACER – MYAT testing to be conducted in Years Seven, Eight and Nine for 2008. • ACER – MYAT results to be scrutinised, areas of need identified and addressed • Synergy program for gifted and talented • Record student WALNA and MSE9 data on MAZE • Literacy and numeracy initiatives promoted in Literacy and Numeracy week • Accelerated Reader established in Year Seven and in the Education Support Class in Year Eight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graphic Organisers, standard formatting and bibliographies contained in Mercy Organiser and explicitly included in programs across the curriculum • <i>Citation</i> (bibliographic software) promoted in library lessons. • Each Year Eight class has one reading lesson in the library each week. • Each Year Eight class has a specific lesson to promote <i>Citation</i>. • Definitions and student writing guide in Mercy Organiser. • Academic Awards to promote and encourage academic excellence. • Exercise books in Years Seven, Eight and Nine booklists to promote consistency and standards. • Orientation of new staff to encompass literacy strategies. • After school tutoring program for Aboriginal students • Year Eight Education Support Class in English and Mathematics established. • SRA Reading program introduced into all Year Seven classes. • Synergy program established for gifted and talented students. • <i>Accelerated Reader</i> established in Year Seven and in the Education Support Class in Year Eight. • <i>Inspiration</i> (brainstorm/mindmapping software tool) taught to Year Eight students in Library lessons.

SENIOR LEARNING CENTRE 2006 - 2008	SENIOR LEARNING CENTRE 2008-2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of spelling journal, graphic organisers, standard formatting and bibliographies in Mercy Organiser • Academic Standards set out in Mercy Organiser • Academic Awards promoted • ESL classes established • Needs of African students identified and support group established. • Synergy program for Year Ten students • Citation (bibliographic software) promoted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of spelling journal, graphic organisers, standard formatting and bibliographies in Mercy Organiser • Academic Standards set out in Mercy Organiser • Academic Awards promoted • ESL classes established • Needs of African students identified and support group established. • Synergy program for Year Ten students • Citation (bibliographic software) promoted

TESTING 2006 -2008	TESTING 2006 – 2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACER – MYAT testing to be conducted in Years Seven, Eight and Nine for 2008. • ACER – MYAT results to be scrutinised, areas of need identified and addressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACER – MYAT testing to be conducted in Years Seven, Eight and Nine for 2008. • ACER – MYAT results to be scrutinised, areas of need identified and addressed. • NAPLAN and MSE9 data to be recorded on MAZE • Investigation to include MYAT data on MAZE • Investigation to promote Literacy and Numeracy week activities. • Accelerated Reader program established in Year Seven and in Education Support English Class in Year Eight.

EDUCATION SUPPORT 2006-2008	EDUCATION SUPPORT 2008 - 2010
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Support with individual or group tutoring offered to students identified as requiring support. • Education Support with individual or group tutoring offered to students identified as requiring support. • Hickey program for Education Support using multi-sensory approach. • Tutoring – one to one, small group as needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hickey program for Education Support using multi-sensory approach. • Education Support with individual or group tutoring offered to students identified as requiring support. • <i>Word Shark</i> installed on network for use in Education Support groups and other students as needed. • <i>Alpha to Omega (Word Shark support)</i> program to be purchased • Tutoring – one to one, small group as needed.

WHOLE SCHOOL APPROACH

- ESL students identified and ESL/EALD classes established as required.
- Promotion of specific learning area literacy – Science glossary, Mathematical terms posters etc.
- Literacy Team promoted and new members encouraged
- Wonder word of the week promoted in 1-12 classes to promote correct spelling.
- Literacy Component in each assessment in each learning area
- Research use of data to support literacy strategies.
- Citation to be explicitly promoted across Learning Areas and Learning Centres.
- Book Week. Promoted in library.

FUTURE FOCUS 2006 - 2008

- Promote Literacy as a K-12 initiative – HOW??
- A literacy component to be included in each assessment in each learning area for all year groups – specific reference to be made to standards in Mercy Organiser
- Establishment of Professional Development Resources Section in the Library
- Establish a sharing inspirational articles/resources network
- Each learning area to establish a glossary of terms – booklet, posters, intranet
- Expand Accelerated Reader to Year Six and into Year Eight
- Investigate possible Literacy PD for staff to attend or for staff meetings Use data to support strategies
- Investigate funding for Literacy/Numeracy
- Work with library to construct an audit to ensure all students are exposed to Citation.
- Review literacy strategies, resources etc in Mercy College Organiser
- Establish a meeting time for Literacy Team

FUTURE FOCUS 2000 - 2010

- Investigating *Text to Speech* program for all students struggling to access written material.
- Education Support to be extended into Year 10 – with a focus on literacy skills.
- Establishment of modified programs for students in non-streamed classes with an emphasis on basic literacy.