Year 1

Rationale
The study of English is central to the learning and development of all young Australians. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens. It is through the study of English that individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate and create in relationship with others and with the world around them. The study of English plays a key role in the development of reading and literacy skills which help young people develop the knowledge and skills needed for education, training and the workplace. It helps them become ethical, thoughtful, informed and active members of society. In this light, it is clear that the Australian Curriculum: English will be an important part in developing the understanding, attitudes and capabilities of those who will take responsibility for Australia’s future.

Australia is a linguistically and culturally diverse country, and participation in many aspects of contemporary life depends on effective communication in Standard Australian English. In addition, proficiency in English is invaluable globally. The Australian Curriculum: English contributes to nation-building and to internationalisation.

The Australian Curriculum: English also helps students to engage imaginatively and critically with literature to explore the scope of experience. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have contributed to Australian society and to its contemporary literature and its literary heritage through their distinctive ways of representing and communicating knowledge, traditions and experience. The Australian Curriculum: English values, respects and explores this contribution. It also emphasises Australia’s links to Asia.

Aims
The Australian Curriculum: English aims to ensure that students:

- learn to listen to, read, view, speak, write, create and reflect on increasingly complex and sophisticated spoken, written and multimodal texts across a growing range of contexts with accuracy, fluency and purpose.
- develop interest and skills in inquiring into the aesthetic aspects of texts, and develop an informed appreciation of literature and culture.
- appreciate, enjoy and use the language in all its variations and develop a sense of its richness and power to evoke feelings, convey information, form ideas, facilitate interaction with others, entertain, persuade and argue.
- understand how Standard Australian English works in its spoken and written forms and in combination with non-linguistic forms of communication to create meaning.
- develop interest and skills in inquiring into the aesthetic aspects of texts, and develop an informed appreciation of literature.

Year 1 Level Description
The English curriculum is built around the three interrelated strands of language, literature and literacy. Teaching and learning programs should balance and integrate all three strands. Together, the strands focus on developing students’ knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating. Learning in English builds on concepts, skills and processes developed in earlier years, and teachers will revisit and strengthen these as needed.

In Year 1, students communicate with peers, teachers, known adults and students from other classes. Students engage with a variety of tasks for enjoyment. They listen to, read, view and interpret spoken, written and multimodal texts designed to entertain and inform. These encompass traditional oral arts including Aboriginal stories, picture books, various types of stories, rhyming verse, poetry, non-fiction, film, dramatic performances and texts used by students as models for constructing their own texts.

The range of literary texts for Foundation to Year 10 comprises Australian literature, including the oral narrative traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, as well as the contemporary literature of these two cultural groups, and classic and contemporary world literature, including texts from and about Asia. Literature includes folk and fairy tales, short stories, poems, narratives and classic and contemporary world literature, including texts from and about Asia.

Students begin to understand that the purposes texts serve shape their structure in predictable ways. Students’ growing understanding and use of Standard Australian English (English) enables them to expand their repertoire of English usage and to focus on developing students’ knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating.

Literacy:

- Language:
  - Language variation and change
  - Language for interaction
  - Text structure and organisation

- Literature:
  - Interpretation, analysis, evaluation
  - Literature: understanding
  - Literature: responding

- Literacy:
  - Language and literacy
  - Texts in context

Year 1 Content Descriptions

Language

- Language variation and change
  - Understand that people use different systems of communication to cater to different needs and purposes and that many people may use sign systems to communicate with others.

- Language for interaction
  - Understand that language is used in combination with other means of communication, for example facial expressions and gestures to interact with others.

- Text structure and organisation
  - Understand that the purposes texts serve shape their structure in predictable ways.

Literature

- Interpretation, analysis, evaluation
  - Understand the purposes texts serve shape their structure in predictable ways.

- Literature: understanding
  - Understand the use of vocabulary in everyday contexts as well as growing number of school contexts, including appropriate use of formal and informal language terms in different contexts.

- Literature: responding
  - Discuss how authors create characters using language and images.

Literacy

- Language and literacy
  - Read decodable and predictable texts using developing phrasing, fluency, vocabulary and understanding.

- Texts in context
  - Respond to texts drawn from a range of cultures and experiences.