



St. Anne's

Primary School

60 KNEES ROAD, PARK ORCHARDS, VICTORIA 3114

POLICY: RETENTION

RATIONALE:

When a child is having difficulties, socially, emotionally or academically, an option may be for the child to repeat a grade.

While Retention will be considered on a case by case basis, research has found that retention has a negative effect on student learning whereas there are more positive effects in the long term for students who are promoted than for retained students.¹

AIMS:

- To ensure the child's best interests and their future education is considered
- To seek input and direction from the staff and parents to make the decision
- To ensure that the decision is made with well-informed discussions

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Prep teachers will communicate closely with kindergarten teachers to discuss each child's readiness for school. As Prep is seen as a preparatory year it is not unusual for a student to repeat this year. Some children can take 12 months to settle into the school routine. It is important for children to be allowed this settling in period before consideration is given to retention
- A Program Support Group comprising the school Principal, Student Services Leader, Classroom Teacher(s) and Parents will be established when retention is being considered. (refer also to Student Wellbeing Policy)
- Consideration will be given to all the implications for a student repeating a grade

¹ Hattie (pg 97)

- Before a final recommendation is made for retention the Principal and Student Services Leader will provide the family with documented reasons for their decision together with up to date research on the impact of retention.
- If a student in Prep is struggling with reading they will be short-listed as candidates for the Reading Recovery Program at the beginning of Year One. Students who repeat Year One are however ineligible for Reading Recovery in their repeat year if they accessed it the previous year
- The Consultative Committee comprising the Principal, two nominees of the Principal and two teachers who are members of the union may need to be consulted if there is a recommendation for a child to repeat. This will need to occur if class sizes exceed the recommended limit outlined in the Victorian Catholic Education Multi Employer Agreement as at 29 October 2008

REFERENCES

Hattie, John .A.C (2009), Visible Learning, A Synthesis Of Over 800 Meta-Analyses

Relating To Achievement, Madeson Avenue, New York: Routledge

EVALUATION:

The Retention Policy will be reviewed every four years or when necessary.

This policy was reviewed in 2012

The next review will be in 2016