English As an Additional Language Policy

**Rationale:**

Kerrimuir Primary School is a culturally diverse learning community. The community values the languages and cultures of its members. We are committed to empowering students through developing skills in communicating in Standard Australian English, the language used by the key institutions in Australia.

**Aims:**

- To provide equal access to educational opportunities for students with English as an additional language.
- To assist all students to become competent users of spoken and written English.
- To promote and develop self-esteem and confidence in students with a non-English speaking background.

**Implementation:**

- The EAL program will be based on Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) guidelines as detailed in the EAL developmental continuum.
- The E.S.L. coordinator will be responsible for:
  - the management of resources
  - co-ordination of the program
  - provision of information and support for parents of EAL students
  - assisting classroom teachers with developing programs for individual students
  - liaison with Blackburn English Language School staff regarding testing for enrolment
  - inducting new EAL families into the Kerrimuir community.
- The coordinator in conjunction with classroom teachers will identify pupils in need of support and assistance.
- Students will be assessed according to the EAL AusVELS Companion.
- The program devised should complement the year level program.
- The EAL teacher, along with the Principal, will prioritise students according to their needs and work with these children in groups as required.
- Students who have no English or are new arrivals to Australia will be referred to Blackburn English Language School.
- Students within the program will receive ongoing support.
- Professional Development will be available for all staff.
- Interpreter services will be available to assist parents where needed.
- Parents of EAL students will be contacted to determine their needs and support provided.

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle. The policy and program will be evaluated on an ongoing basis using AusVELS Companion as a guide.

A variety of formal and informal evaluation strategies will be used to assess student learning.