BASIC BELIEF
Learning a sign language such as Auslan promotes an understanding of hearing impaired culture and community. It supports the provision of an inclusive education at Mansfield Primary School by extending communication to students with hearing impairments and other disabilities. Learning to communicate in a new language develops thinking, reflection and communication skills.

IMPLEMENTATION
- Auslan (Australian Sign Language) is recognized in Australia as a formal language.
- Auslan does not have a written form but is instructed verbally and visually.
- Learning a sign language offers students the opportunity to consider their own culture in comparison with the cultures of deaf communities.
- The Auslan program will follow VELS guidelines, drawing content from across the curriculum and enriching the current classroom topics.
- The experience of Auslan will be available to every student.
- Posters of Auslan signs will be displayed in all classrooms.
- Links to the Auslan Signbank web site will be added to the school intranet
- The initial focus of the program will target key concepts, subsequently broadening to include finger spelling.
- Professional development will be taken as and when appropriate.
- Where possible, a suitably qualified teacher will conduct Auslan PD sessions.

This policy was ratified by the Mansfield Primary School Council on 16th August 2010
Review Date: 2013