BASIC BELIEF

The structure of the school impacts significantly on school operations, student opportunities and school effectiveness. The structure of the school is therefore reviewed annually and altered in accordance with student needs and the availability of resources.

At Mansfield Primary School we aim to have a flexible class structure that ensures inclusiveness for all students by:

- Enabling children to develop relationships with children of a variety of ages
- Promoting understanding, leadership, tolerance, cooperation, resilience and social cohesion
- Providing opportunities for individuals to experience a range of grade groupings, spending time at the beginning and end of composite groups
- Reflecting groups within society eg. families, work places, organizations
- Supporting community spirit and school culture
- Supporting the welfare of children through negotiation, cooperation and tolerance

IMPLEMENTATION

- The principal is ultimately responsible for the structure of the school
- School structure is a complex balance of many factors including student enrolments, facilities, staff strengths and availability, budgets, Industrial Agreements and student needs
- The process of considering whole school structure will be managed by the principal, will commence in early in term 4 of the previous year, and will use a transparent and consultative process
- When reviewing the school structure, the principal will consult with the elected Consultative Committee, Leadership Team, School Council, and the wider staff
- All staff will have opportunities to provide input into any structure review process
- All potential models will be widely circulated with details regarding advantages and ramifications
- The focus of all school structure reviews must focus on the needs of students at Mansfield Primary School.
- The School Council president will be kept fully informed of the progress of discussions and School Council will be fully informed by the principal of the proposed structure of the school for the following year during or before the scheduled December council meeting
- The wider school community will be fully informed of the structure of the school for the following year in a newsletter distributed in December
- Any concerns relating to the structure of the school must be directed to the principal or School Council president
- The school will provide annual information sessions on classroom organization strategies, teaching and learning strategies and departmental guidelines to the wider community
- Teaching in a composite structure requires:
  (i) teachers to plan personalized teaching and learning tasks that challenge and support individual needs and learning styles
  (ii) flexible team planning across the school
• The composite structure at Mansfield Primary School enables:
  (i) children to work at their own level and in a variety of group situations eg. cross-age, interest, grade level
  (ii) flexibility of grade groupings
  (iii) cross-age tutoring to occur within grade groupings or across grade groupings

• When grouping children, consideration will be given to:
  (i) the development and individual needs and welfare of each child eg. leadership skills, social tolerance, providing role models, consolidation of own learning and promotion of self esteem and independence
  (ii) staff recommendations
  (iii) the number of children at each grade level
  (iv) gender equity
  (v) balance of abilities
  (vi) preferred learning styles
  (vii) special needs and talents
  (viii) friendship and family grouping

This policy was ratified by the Mansfield Primary School Council on – 13th September 2010

Review Date: 2013