Rationale:
Languages Other Than English (L.O.T.E.) contributes materially to the universal purposes of schooling and provides students at Highton Primary School with the opportunity to participate in and learn a L.O.T.E. They support the moral, social and cultural initiation of young people into the culture and wider civilisation that surrounds them. Learning a language nurtures reflective, deep and creative thinking in specific ways, cultivates culturally distinctive fields of knowledge and understanding.

Aims:
- In learning a language, students aim to develop communication skills and knowledge and come to understand the social, historical, familial relationships and other aspects of the specific language and culture of the speakers of the language they are studying.
- Learners are also provided with the tools, through comparison and reflection, to understand language, culture and humanity in a broad sense.
- In this way, language learning contributes to the development of interculturally aware citizens, of increasing importance at a time of rapid and deep globalisation
- Through the teaching and learning of the language, culture and social life, students are also able to develop positive attitudes towards other nationalities.

Implementation:
- Italian is the current L.O.T.E. taught at Highton Primary School.
- The L.O.T.E. domain is an essential component of the Discipline–Based Learning Strand of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.
- All students at our school will study a sequential L.O.T.E. course based upon the learning focus statements contained within the Victorian Essential Learning Standards.
- The L.O.T.E. will be decided by School Council after wide community consultation.
- The L.O.T.E. teacher, in consultation with other staff, will develop and implement a practical and ‘hands on’ L.O.T.E. course for all students. This is to be implemented based on student needs, using agreed lesson structures.
- Student’s individual abilities must be measured to ensure learning opportunities cater for the individual needs of each student.
- Learning technologies will be used to enhance the program.
- Student progress in L.O.T.E. will be reported in half and end of year academic reports.
- L.O.T.E. study for each student will be approximately 1 hour per week.
- L.O.T.E. activities should where possible reflect the topics being studied at school and are appropriate to each child’s ability.
- A budget that provides for the needs of the L.O.T.E. program will be developed by L.O.T.E. staff and resourced by School Council.
- The L.O.T.E. teacher will be allocated the responsibility of the school’s L.O.T.E. program, including and L.O.T.E. excursions and /or incursions.
- The L.O.T.E will be reinforced throughout the whole school curriculum.

Evaluation:
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in: June 2011

References: