



Structured Literacy at St Patrick's



At St Patrick's we are proud to be moving successfully through DOBCEL's Flare Literacy strategic process. Our staff commenced their learning of structured literacy through the Science of Language and Reading course in 2021 and since then we have been committed to continuing our learning about evidence-based literacy instruction. We have been implementing structured literacy in our school since 2022 with the introduction of our phonics program, Little Learners Love Literacy, in Foundation to Year 2.

Structured Literacy is the approach recommended by national and international experts, including the International Dyslexia Association. In a Structured Literacy classroom, all the aspects of literacy are taught in a systematic and explicit way that ensures all children can read, write and spell at an appropriate level.

Structured Literacy is an evidence-based approach to teaching reading and writing that is highly effective for all students. It focuses on breaking down the complex tasks of reading and writing into clear, step-by-step skills. This method is systematic, meaning it follows a clear order; **cumulative**, meaning each new lesson builds on the last; **explicit**, meaning the teacher directly teaches each skill; and **diagnostic**, meaning the teacher monitors student progress and adjusts instruction as needed.

We have embedded a consistent and effective Structured Literacy methodology from Foundation through to Year Six. This means that every student is explicitly taught all the key elements of Literacy, including phonics, in a systematic way. This ensures that all children build the strong foundational knowledge and understandings they need to become confident and capable readers and writers.

As the Grattan Report (February 2024) explains: *"A structured literacy approach to teaching reading is best. It draws on decades of research evidence, including cognitive science, by explicitly and systematically teaching students the key sub-skills needed for reading and writing."*

Throughout 2025 our staff have been working with DOBCEL's award-winning Flare Structured Literacy methodology which is being enacted across the diocese in partnership with La Trobe University. Our staff will continue this learning on our whole school closure day on Friday, 19th September.

It is reaffirming to see that our students' results in the recent mid-year assessments and NAPLAN demonstrate the success of our evidence-based literacy teaching practices. We are proud of the work that both our staff and students put in to make our literacy programs so successful.

If you'd like to find out more about Structured Literacy, the following resources may be of interest. You may also reach out to Tarryn Delaney or contact Emma Rutherford, the leader of Flare Primary Literacy, erutherford@dobcel.catholic.edu.au with any questions you may have.

[Reading Rockets - Structured Literacy, The Basics](#)

[International Dyslexia Association - Why Schools Should Use Structured Literacy](#)

[Grattan Institute Report - The Reading Guarantee](#)

[St Patrick's School Camperdown Website](#)