LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE) POLICY - 2014
To be reviewed: 2017

RATIONALE:
The learning of a Language Other Than English (LOTE) provided at Our Lady’s is Italian. LOTE learning promotes cognitive growth through the development of literacy and communication skills. It enhances divergent thinking and fosters personal fulfilment through acquired language skills and cultural knowledge.

AIMS:
- To promote language acquisition and cultural appreciation through the development of knowledge, skills and conceptual understandings.
- To develop an awareness of the mechanics of language and its communicative purpose.
- To enable students of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to develop an appreciation and a sense of culture.
- To provide an opportunity for students to develop some understanding of a language other than English, through reading, writing, listening and speaking.
- To communicate in Italian.
- To develop intercultural knowledge awareness of the Italian language.

IMPLEMENTATION:
- Italian is taught weekly.
- Language lessons include the language of instruction and spontaneous interactive language.
- The communicative approach to language centres upon active student participation.
- The LOTE program provides contexts where the main learning intention is familiarisation with the language structure.
- When planning for language acquisition, a unit of work is structured around an initial shared experience and planned repeated activities.
  - the initial shared experience in a unit of work develops listening and comprehension skills. This exposes the student to comprehensive language in a meaningful context, e.g. through activities requiring non-verbal participation, and choral responses using short phrases or chants
  - tasks provide an ideal environment for gaining familiarity with the sound and rhythm patterns of the language and opportunities to use new language forms in a supportive environment
- An annual celebration of cultures occurs.

EVALUATION
This policy will be reviewed by the staff as part of the school’s three year cycle or as necessary.