





A Whole School Approach to Reading



Students are placed in one of these strands **Timetables**

For students at Prep to Grade 2 Reading Age
The order of the lessons does not have to follow the sequence; however, the scheme for each lesson must be followed.

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Lesson 1	Time	Lesson 2	Time	Lesson 3	Time	Lesson 4	Time
Skills in isolation Resource Reading Link-Decoding Books 1-4	20 min.	Skills in isolation Resource Reading Link-Decoding Books 1-4	20 min	Skills in isolation Resource Reading Link- Decoding Books 1-4	20 min	Skills in isolation Resource Reading Link- Decoding Books 1-4	20 min
Oral Language. Program follows four different aspects of oral language development.	15 min	Group Reading Multiple copies of readers that match the skills program. Students read aloud with the teacher.	10 min	Oral language	15 min	Group Reading	10 min
Teacher read aloud. Teachers read aloud to students for enjoyment and to encourage interest in reading.	10 min	Independent Reading. Conferencing Students read 'just right' books- fiction and non- fiction. Books chosen from the SunLit room according to the appropriate lexile level. light Grey Light Green with some flexibility.	15 min	Independent Reading. Conferencing Conferencing- teachers talk with students independently about their reading to ascertain comprehension and strategies used.	10 min	Independent Reading. Conferencing	15 min

Recommendation: For the first half of the year students read the group reading text for independent reading.

COMPREHENSION

for students at Grade 5 - 6 Reading Age

The order of the lessons does not have to follow this sequence; however, the scheme for each lesson must be followed.

Lesson 1	Time	Lesson 2	Time	Lesson 3	Time	Lesson 4	Time
Reciprocal teaching. Students taught to work in groups following the cycle: Predict. Clarify. Question generating/ Ask a difficult question. Summarise.	25-30 mins	Engagement in Ideas alternating with Mental Models	25-30 mins	Oral Language Program follows four different aspects of oral language development	25 mins	Comprehension activities	25 min
Independent Reading and Conferencing Students read 'just right' fiction and non- fiction books. Books chosen from the SunLit room according to the appropriate lexile level. Pink Purple with some flexibility.	20 mins	Independent Reading and Conferencing Teachers talk to students individually about their reading to ascertain understanding.	20 mins.	Independent Reading and Conferencing	25 mins	Read aloud/ Independent Reading and Conferencing Teachers read aloud to students for enjoyment and to encourage interest.	25 min

Comprehension Transition For students at Grade 3 and 4 Reading Age

The order of the lessons does not have to follow the sequence; however, the scheme for each lesson must be followed. $\label{eq:controller}$

Lesson 1	Time	Lesson 2	Time	Lesson 3	Time	Lesson 4	Time
Week 1 Reciprocal Teaching	25 min	Skills in Isolation- Resource Reading Link- Decoding Books	25 min	Engagement in Ideas	20 min	Skills in Isolation- Resource Reading Link- Decoding Books	25 min
Teacher read aloud Teachers reading to students for enjoyment. Students do not have a copy of the text.	10 Min	Group Reading Multiple copies of readers that match the skills program. Students read aloud with the teacher.	15 min	Oral Language Program follows four different aspects of oral language development	20 min	Group Reading	15 min
Independent Reading & Conferencing Students read 'just right' books-fiction and non- fiction. Books chosen from the SunLit room according to the appropriate lexile level. 3-Dark green 4-Red with some flexibility.	15 min	Independent Reading & Conferencing Conferencing. Teachers talk with students individually about their reading to ascertain understanding.	10 min	Independent Reading & Conferencing	10 min	Independent Reading & Conferencing	10 min

STRATEGIES
For students reading at Grade 7 to Grade 12
The order of the lessons does not have to follow the sequence; however, the scheme for each lesson must be followed.

Lesson 1	Time	Lesson 2	Time	Lesson 3	Time	Lesson 4	Time
Reciprocal Teaching Students taught to work in groups following the cycle: Predict Clarify Question generate/ Ask a difficult question Summarise	30 mins	Building Mental Models OR Engagement in ideas [alternate]	15-20 mins	Cognitive Strategies Learning and remembering information from text	25 mins	Critical Literacy	25 min
Independent Reading & conferencing Students read 'just right' books-fiction and non-fiction. Books chosen from the SunLit room according to the appropriate lexile level. 7-light blue 8-dark blue 9-brown 10 -12 black	20 mins	Oral language	20-25 mins	Read aloud or Independent Reading & Conferencing Teachers read aloud to students for enjoyment and to encourage interest in a book/short story.	20 mins	Indep. Reading & Conferencing Teachers talk to students individually about their reading to ascertain understanding.	20 min

High Strategies students, that is students who are in groups 10, 11 & 12, will participate in a week of writing every four weeks.



SunLit Reading Program

'SunLit' is the Sunshine College whole school reading program. It is based on evidence from extensive research, by Queensland academic, Dr. Carol Christensen (retired).

The SunLit program commenced in 2007. A distinguishing feature of the program is that it caters for readers of *all* abilities. Every student has the opportunity to develop their reading skills-from the lowest skilled readers to highly skilled readers.

Any student who enrols at Sunshine College can expect to receive targeted reading lessons designed to match and enhance their reading competence.

Teachers from every learning area in the college teach in the SunLit program. We know that every teacher must be responsible for developing their students' literacy skills and this program is a practical example. Our students receive constant reinforcement on the value and pleasure of reading throughout their daily school lives.

Students from years 7-11 participate in the SunLit program four times a week.

A student's reading age is determined by their result from the 'On-Demand' reading test that is conducted twice a year.

SunLit students are then placed in one of four strands. They will progress to other strands according to both mid-year and end of year 'On-Demand' test results. In addition, students who believe they are in the wrong strand can be moved during the year after consultation with the Campus SunLit Coordinator and SunLit teacher.

The 4 Strands: Decoding Strand Comprehension Transition Strand Comprehension Strand Strategies Strand







Each strand has a tailor-made timetable of reading activities developed by Dr. Christensen in conjunction with Sunshine College.



Reciproca Teaching Independent Reading Conference



Decoding Strand

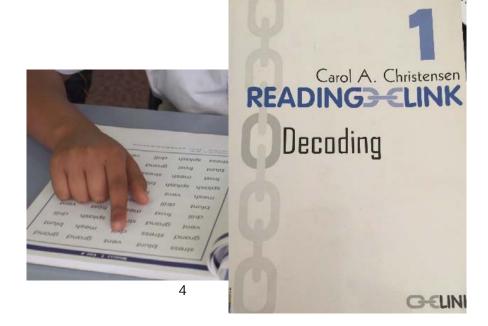
(Max. class size 6 – 8 students)



Skills in Isolation- Using a five step lesson process, students receive training in breaking down words into small parts, matching and identifying the letter sounds and practise using the words. Students progress through a set of selected word lists until they can decode them automatically. This requires constant practice. In every SunLit lesson, students in Decoding Strand participate in this basic but vital activity.



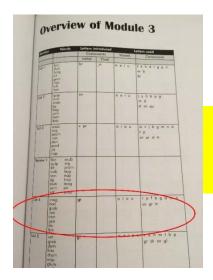
Oral Language- Twice a week students will participate in a variety of speaking tasks. These are designed to foster the cognitive growth required in the reading process.

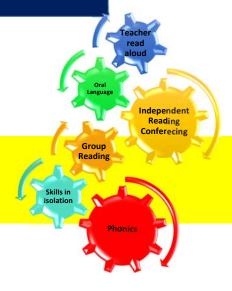






Sunshine College SunLit







Group Reading- Twice a week. Using texts that match the skills component, students read aloud with the teacher. This enhances reading fluency and confidence.



Teacher Read Aloud- Once a week. This allows the teacher to demonstrate effective reading habits and fosters an enjoyment of reading in the students.



Independent Reading- Using selected 'just right' books,

students read silently three times a week. Teachers will conference with them and talk about strategies for making meaning from the texts.







Comprehension Transition

(Max. class size 15 students)



Skills in Isolation- Twice a week using a five step lesson process, students receive training in breaking down words into small parts, matching and identifying the letter sounds and practise using the words. Students progress through a set of selected word lists until they can decode them automatically. This requires constant practice. At this level of reading, students are considered to be in transition to comprehension; their decoding skills have still not achieved automaticity. The word lists used are more complex than those in the Decoding Strand.



Reciprocal Teaching- Once a week, students read a text using the 'Reciprocal Teaching' strategy. This strategy is a metacognitive four step process that all good readers use. International studies have rated 'Reciprocal Teaching' in the top ten strategies designed to enhance reading comprehension.



Engagement in Ideas- Once a week, students participate in word based activities including games, riddles and puzzles, logic, lateral thinking, jokes and 'whodunit texts' designed to foster inquiry in students. The tasks promote resilience and concentration and assist with the reader's engagement with concepts in a text.







Group Reading- Twice a week. Using readers that match the skills component, students read aloud with the teacher. This enhances reading fluency and confidence.



Teacher Read Aloud- Once a week. This allows the teacher to demonstrate correct reading habits and fosters an enjoyment of reading in the students.



Independent Reading- Using selected 'just right' books, students read silently four times a week. Teachers will conference them and talk about strategies for making meaning from the texts.



Oral Language- Twice a week students will participate in a variety of speaking tasks. These are designed to foster the cognitive growth required in the reading process.







Comprehension

(Max. class size 18 students)



Reciprocal Teaching- Once a week, students read a text using the 'Reciprocal Teaching' strategy. This strategy is a metacognitive four step process that all good readers use. International studies have rated 'Reciprocal Teaching' in the top ten strategies designed to enhance reading comprehension.



Engagement in Ideas- Once a fortnight, students participate in word based activities including: games, riddles and puzzles, logic, lateral thinking, jokes and 'whodunit texts' designed to foster inquiry in students. The tasks promote resilience and concentration as well as assist with the reader's engagement with concepts in a text.



Mental Models- Once a fortnight, students participate in an activity designed to assist the reader in making an accurate mental picture of a text. The ability to visualize text requires training that takes the student through a series of increasingly complex sketching exercises.



Oral Language-Once a week students will participate in a variety of speaking tasks. These are designed to foster the cognitive growth required in the reading process.











Comprehension Activity- Once a week students will experience in-depth study on *how* to comprehend through the discovery and use of effective strategies.



Independent Reading- Using selected 'just right' books, students read silently four times a week. Teachers conference the students and talk about strategies for making meaning from the texts.



Teacher Read Aloud- Once a week. This allows the teacher to demonstrate correct reading habits. It also fosters an enjoyment of reading by introducing a variety of engaging and interesting texts.







Strategies Strand

(Max. class size 25 students)



Reciprocal Teaching- Once a week, students read complex texts using the 'Reciprocal Teaching' strategy. This strategy is a metacognitive four step process that all good readers use. International studies have rated 'Reciprocal Teaching' in the top ten strategies designed to enhance reading comprehension.



Engagement in Ideas- Once a fortnight, students participate in word based activities including: games, riddles and puzzles, logic, lateral thinking, jokes and 'whodunit texts' designed to foster inquiry in students. The tasks promote resilience and concentration as well as assist with the reader's engagement with concepts in a text.

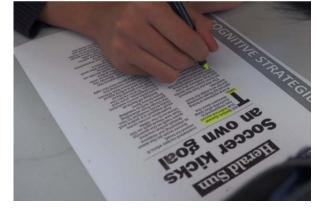


Cognitive Strategies- Once a week, students work on developing sophisticated strategies for learning and retaining information in texts.



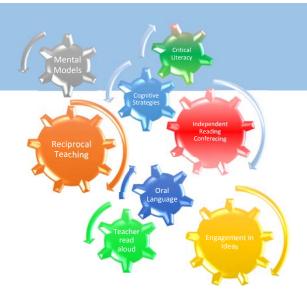
Critical Literacy- Once a week. The reader should be able to critically analyse a text, form an opinion and cogently argue the case using evidence from the text.













Mental Models- Once a fortnight, students participate in an activity designed to assist the reader in making an accurate mental picture of a text. The ability to visualize text requires training that takes the student through a series of increasingly complex sketching exercises.



Oral Language- Once a week students will participate in a variety of speaking tasks. These are designed to foster the cognitive growth required in the reading process.



Writing- SunLit students who score in the highest range according to the On-Demand test are placed in groups where they participate in a writing program. This program occurs once every four weeks during SunLit. The best student writing is compiled into an anthology.





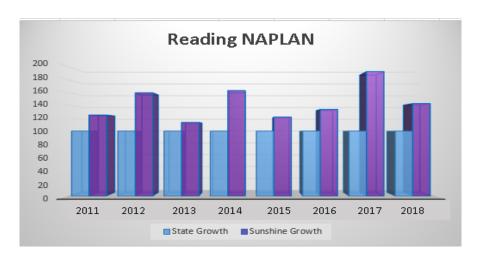
Data and Growth

The primary focus when analysing 'On-Demand' test data, is to inform teachers of a student's preparedness for learning. This allows us to design and target SunLit lessons accurately. We are able to place students into groups where texts, tasks and reflection best fit the needs of the class.

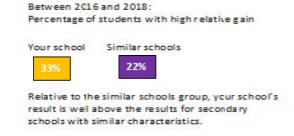
As well, data from the On-Demand test is used for tracking student growth and maintaining an improvement focus in our program.

We report to parents on the growth of their students in Years 7 to 10. Every student now uses digital spreadsheets to track their personal growth in reading during their years at Sunshine College.

NAPLAN data indicates it is usual for 70-80% of our students to achieve medium or high relative growth in reading from Year 7 to 9. Our mean scores in NAPLAN also show that students improve at a faster rate than the average student in Victoria. This has been consistent for a number of years, as shown in the table below.



The NAPLAN graph below shows the Sunshine College Yr. 9 students who achieved 'high relative growth' for the years 2016-2018. These are the students who sat both NAPLAN reading tests as Yr. 7s and Yr. 9s at Sunshine College. Our students outperformed 29 similar schools in the state of Victoria by a considerable margin.







Sunshine College SunLit

MEDIA RELEASE

Turning around troubled schools: it can be done

en stressed that governments had a key role in supporting schools to make ural and cultural change, but they had to do more than simply focus on the five

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THE AUSTRALIAN



Against the odds, schools provide lessons in excellence

EEKEND AUSTRALIAN 🤏 Revealed: blueprint to boost our schools



THESATURDAYAGE

Sunshine a model in school turnaround





GRATTAN Institute-'Turning around schools: it can be done'









Influential

Reading at Sunshine College recognised.

In 2007, SunLit started with 54 classes, across year levels from 7-11, students placed into 4 reading strands, across 4 campuses, 4 times per week, with 9 different activities and taught by teachers from every subject area. This was an amazing achievement in organizational terms and testament to the foresight of Principal Tim Blunt and founding SunLit Coordinators Janis Copping and Chris Wheat.

In 2018, an external review of Sunshine College conducted for the D.E.T. by a panel of ex-principals, ranked reading at Sunshine College as 'influential'. This is the highest possible rating that can be achieved. In fact, the panel's assessment means that Sunshine College's approach to improving reading outcomes is recommended for other schools to investigate.

SunLit continues as a significant part of the daily life of the college, delivering reading lessons to over 50 classes. Ultimately it is the students who decide on the success of any program. In the case of SunLit, the commitment and dedication of the students in class is their vote of confidence. For this we thank the teachers and coordinators for their hard work and professionalism in delivering SunLit.



SunLit College Coordinator Glenn Hartney and SunLit Manager Tania Falzon

SUNSHINE COLLEGE SUNLIT VIDEO - A Whole School Literacy Program. Video Produced by D.E.T. for FUSE website





Dr. Carol Christensen presenting at a Professional Learning Day in 2019.





Sunshine College Principal- Tim Blunt









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