Victorian Academy of Teaching and Leadership

2027 Literacy Planning Discussion Guide

Use this to prompt discussion with your teams on current literacy practices, identify opportunities and support planning.

Focus Area 1 — Structured Literacy and the Big 6

Discuss
- How are we currently addressing the Big 6?
- What does our cohort need, and where are the gaps?
- What could a structured literacy block or unit look like?

Ideas to explore
- Audit literacy blocks and unit plans against the Big 6.
- Use student data to identify areas requiring greater focus.
- Develop a shared understanding of the Big 6 across teams.

Focus Area 2 — Explicit teaching of reading

Discuss
- What assumptions about existing knowledge are we currently making?
- How can we make expert thinking visible when monitoring comprehension?

Ideas to explore
- Use and model comprehension monitoring strategies.
- List the must-have skills for each lesson or unit, and plan to fill any gaps.

Focus Area 3 — Explicit teaching of writing

Discuss
- Are we giving writing the same explicit instructional focus as reading?
- Which writing skills do students need the most support with?
- How can we make links between what we are teaching in reading and writing?

Ideas to explore
- Use high-quality mentor texts to demonstrate writing features and structures.
- Explicitly teach the foundations of writing: handwriting, spelling, sentence construction, grammar, punctuation and genre.

Focus Area 4 — Responsive teaching and checks for understanding

Discuss
- What evidence do we collect during learning, not just after learning?
- How can we ensure all students have understood before we move on?

Ideas to explore
- Use checks for understanding, such as hinge questions
- Build assessment opportunities into lesson sequences.
- Build responsive teaching into your instructional playbook.

Focus Area 5 — Preparing for the Victorian Curriculum

Discuss
- What curriculum changes will have the greatest impact on our planning?
- What capability-building will staff need in 2027?
- How will we support consistent implementation across the school?

Ideas to explore
- Address implementation of the new curriculumin strategic plans
- Ensure all levels of staff have the support they need.

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