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Numeracy (mathematical literacy) refers to the individual's ability to use mathematical ideas efficiently to make sense of the world. It makes use of number and spatial sense, combined with critical mathematical thinking involving measurement, chance and data.

To be numerate is to use mathematics effectively to meet the general demands of life at home, in paid work and for participation in community and civil life.

A numerate individual is one who has the ability to interpret, apply and communicate mathematical information in commonly encountered situations to enable full, critical and effective participation in everyday life (Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Wollongong, Numeracy Policy, 2001).

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St Patrick's College Literacy and Numeracy Policy aims to:

- Raise and develop the verbal, non-verbal and written communications skills of all students.

- Expand and continue an integrated whole school approach to literacy and numeracy across all KLAs.

- Foster higher expectations of literacy and numeracy levels for all students.

- Provide support to students of differing abilities within a whole school approach to literacy and numeracy.

- Utilise information available from external assessments in order to provide a focus for all staff to continue building on the literacy and numeracy skills that students have acquired. These sources may include:

  - Primary school NAPLAN results



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The following principles guide the enhancement of literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students at St Patrick's College:

All teachers have a professional responsibility to strive to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for all students within a whole school and cross-curricular approach.

All students should be capable of utilising the information skills of defining, locating, organising, selecting, presenting and evaluating.

A broad range of program options are available to enhance literacy and numeracy outcomes. These include curriculum practices that respond to identified learning needs and support the delivery of inclusive curriculum offerings.