own instruments. Children who can play appropriate instruments but who do not learn through the school are welcome to be involved in the school band.

**Speech & Drama**

Speech & Drama is also offered by an external provider. Information is sent home via the newsletter at the beginning of each term.

Parents who are considering enrolling their child in private lessons held during school hours should first liaise with the classroom teacher. This meeting will help parents assess whether there will be a negative impact on their child’s learning as a consequence to scheduled absences from class.

Issues that need to be considered by parents and teachers include:

- The impact regular absences from class will have on the child’s progress in other areas of the curriculum.
- The number of private lessons being considered.
- The scheduled times for lessons and options to scheduling that may be considered (e.g. the possibility of rotating lesson times).

As a general rule, children should not be involved in more than one of the above-mentioned private lessons if the lessons are held during school hours.

**Languages other than English**

Children in Years 5 -7 attend weekly lessons in Chinese (Mandarin). This program aims to develop each child’s ability to communicate in Mandarin, as well as an appreciation and respect for Chinese culture. The focus of LOTE is cultural literacy through language.

**Library/Resource Centre**

Our school library is a resource centre that provides materials to meet the learning needs of our students. Our library provides children with opportunities to develop the ability to co-operate with others by working in an area where reading, listening, viewing and studying can be shared with other children. Through literature children can acquire a love of reading, which will enrich, enlarge and extend their world, stir their imaginations and help them to better understand themselves and others.

Modern technology, in the form of a computerised search and borrowing system, access to the Internet and educational CD-ROM programs are available in the library to allow children to become familiar with the use and benefits of computers in education.

To help children take appropriate care of library books, it is necessary for each child to use a library bag, marked clearly with his/her name. Parents are asked to assist by ensuring library books, when not in use, are kept in the library bag. Books are normally borrowed for a maximum period of two weeks.

Library staff members appreciate offers of help from parents to volunteer to assist with book covering and other tasks. The Library is resourced through the Library Fund Contribution (a tax-deductible fund). Families contribute to this fund through the fees account.

**Mobile Phones**

Below is a procedural guideline for students who bring mobile phones to school:

- Students bringing a personal mobile phone to school must leave their mobile phone at the office upon arrival at school and collect again at 3.05p.m.
- If a student chooses to leave their mobile phone in their school bag, the school takes no responsibility for the mobile phone.
- The student will be required to sign in their mobile phone and then sign out in the afternoon.
The parent/s will be asked to sign a form indicating their permission for their child to have a mobile phone at school (available from the office).
Students are not permitted to use their mobile phone during school hours 8.40a.m. – 3.05p.m.
No mobile phone is to utilise camera facilities while at school.
Please refer to the mobile phone policy on the website.

School Camps
Camps are conducted in Years 5, 6 and 7. Camps have offered a rich context for learning outside the school environment. Camp themes vary from year to year. Typical themes from past years include the following:

Grade 5 – Belonging  Camp activities focus on working together.
Grade 6 - Leadership  This camp focuses on the skills the children will need as leaders of the school.
Grade 7 - Rite of Passage  During this camp, the children take time to reflect on their primary years and prepare for the final weeks of school.

Specialist Teachers
Apart from instruction in general curriculum areas, our students benefit from the expertise of specialist teachers in the areas of Art, Music, Mandarin, Swimming, Motor Skills (Croc Gym) and Physical Education.

Sport & Physical Education
The school endeavours to maintain a balance between the teaching of physical skills and sports competition. Sport is a component of our Physical Education program.

St Agnes School is a member of the Catholic Primary Schools Sports Association - Zone 2 and the Ekibin District Association. These organisations provide opportunities for children to compete, at a school and representative level, in sports such as netball, soccer, swimming and athletics.

Class swimming lessons are conducted in Terms 1 and 4 and are held at Mt Gravatt State School. Classes participate in one term of swimming. Focus for these lessons are waters sense, water safety and rescue.

A Physical Education teacher takes students in Years 3-7 for weekly lessons during Terms 2 & 3.

Children in Prep, Years 1 & 2 participate in a motor skills program (Croc Gym). Every second year we offer a dance program for all children.

Technology
At St Agnes School, we recognise the tremendous impact technology has in all areas of society. Therefore, we endeavour to expose children to a variety of technologies, particularly computers and information technology. By using computers and related technologies in the classroom, students are able to acquire skills and attitudes that will extend and enrich their learning. They are given opportunities to use on-line information retrieval skills and electronic mailing and to assess, manage and handle information in many forms and on a variety of subjects.

Children will be expected to sign a Code of Conduct for accessing technology at school.