The **How it Works** aims to inform parents of some of our practices and programs. Students at Garran Primary School have unique educational needs and must be catered for in order that their learning outcomes are optimised. All students are provided with opportunities to excel through grouping – full time setting, streaming, withdrawal programs and differentiation of the curriculum - extension, enrichment and curriculum compacting. The Accelerated Learning Program was established in 1997 as a way of catering for the needs of students with an academic ability in literacy and numeracy. The program usually runs three classes of approximately 21 – 25 students arranged as a Year 1/2, a Year 3/4 and a Year 5/6.

**What is the Accelerated Learning Program (ALP)?**
The ALP is a full time accelerated class for students who have been identified as suitable through Garran's chosen assessment procedures. It is a dynamic program that is continually modified to suit the needs of individual students. The ALP provides:
- A differentiated curriculum which allows students to work to potential at their appropriate levels
- Opportunities to develop special interest areas in depth through various activities
- Independent learning on an individual basis
- Limited repetitious work so that students begin their programs from what they know and progress from there
- A stimulating environment where students with similar interests and learning styles may accept challenges with enthusiasm

**How are students selected for the Accelerated Learning Program?**
This is a comprehensive process requiring several months preparation time to administer the testing procedures required to identify candidates for the program. The process begins in Term 3 so that enough time may be devoted to the administration of tests and identification procedures:
- Students are nominated by parents (using a Parent Nomination Form) and teachers (using a Teacher’s Checklist)
- Students are administered a standardised test and the results are compiled by the Deputy Principal
- A committee, comprising the Deputy Principal, Executive Teachers and relevant staff use these results, PIPS, NAPLAN, PM Reading Benchmarks, C.A.R.S Reading results, counsellor/specialists’ records and anecdotal records to select suitable candidates for the program
- Students attending schools other than Garran must provide further evidence such as current school reports or any psychological assessment (school-based or private)
- Students are placed in the program at the beginning of the following year
- All placements are annually reviewed

**What is expected from students in the Accelerated Learning Program?**
It is expected that students:
- Have met the assessment requirements (demonstrate above average results and some characteristics of gifted students)
- Are able to work at a fast pace
- Need little revision to learn and retain concepts
- Respond well to a challenge
- Enjoy a rigorous program that will keep them extremely busy
- Are able to understand concepts at a complex level
- Seek opportunities to further develop individual knowledge and skills

**What happens in the Accelerated Learning Program?**
- Off level tests are used to pre-test students to establish particular needs
- Curriculum is compacted so that the core is covered at a quicker pace allowing time for a more in depth study subjects
- Lessons are significantly more challenging and encourage higher order thinking
- Students apply themselves to work which is structured for their ability rather than their chronological age

During Term 3, parents of current students in the program need to reapply for placement consideration for the following year. Applications for ALP may also be received from students attending Garran in mainstream classes and from students attending other schools. The *How are students selected for the Accelerated Learning Program?* process is then followed. The following will be advised by letter:
- All students currently in the program who will not continue the following year
- All students attending Garran in mainstream classes who will not be offered a place in the program the following year
- All students from other schools who will not be offered a place in the program