

St Dominic's Primary School

Curriculum Plan



MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



St. Dominic's
Primary School

St Dominic's Primary School is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS), where formation and education are based on the principles of Catholic doctrine, and where the teachers are outstanding in true doctrine and uprightness of life.

Curriculum and learning policy

Vision

Student learning is fundamental to achievement and self-esteem in later life, and is the core responsibility of schools, in partnership with parents to support the ongoing educational and personal growth of every student at our school. Student learning is greatly affected by the quality of teaching that they experience. Teachers therefore must ensure that their teaching skills, knowledge and commitment are of the highest standard.

Mission

Student learning is fundamental to achievement and self-esteem in later life, and is the core responsibility of schools, in partnership with parents to support the ongoing educational and personal growth of every student at our school. Student learning is greatly affected by the quality of teaching that they experience. Teachers therefore must ensure that their teaching skills, knowledge and commitment are of the highest standard.

Purpose

The purpose of the school's Curriculum Plan is to optimise student learning through the implementation of the Victorian Curriculum F – 10 across each learning area from Foundation to Year 6, in a manner consistent with system requirements and locally identified needs. It will provide all students with a sequential curriculum framework that guides their learning, as well as providing measures of learning achievement that allow students, teachers and parents the opportunity to assess student performance against expected achievement standards.

The Victorian Curriculum is the Foundation to Year 10 curriculum for Victorian government and Catholic schools for implementation from 2017. The Victorian Curriculum reflects Victorian priorities and standards for F–10 and incorporates the Australian Curriculum. It defines what it is that all students have the opportunity to learn as a result of their schooling, set out as a series of learning progressions. See <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/foundation-10/Pages/default.aspx>.

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 recognises that increasingly, in a world where knowledge itself is constantly growing and evolving, students need to develop, in addition to discrete discipline knowledge and understanding, a set of skills, behaviours and dispositions, or general capabilities, that apply across discipline content and equip them to be lifelong learners able to operate with confidence in a complex, information-rich, globalised world.

The St Dominic's Primary School Curriculum Plan has been developed in light of the directions for Catholic education and principles of curriculum from the *Horizons of Hope* education framework: Catholic schools provide an excellent holistic education centred on the students and engaging them in

authentic, purposeful learning; and incorporating the philosophy of the Victorian Curriculum F–10 and the Religious Education Curriculum Framework.

The curriculum is a statement of the purpose of schooling and defines what it is that all students have the opportunity to learn as a result of their schooling.

Principles

At St Dominic's Primary, we follow the Victorian Curriculum as a basis to develop a broad and effective curriculum using innovative and challenging approaches where students are stimulated to become independent thinkers.

Teachers and support staff are committed to:

- Providing all students with the learning opportunities and experiences they individually require
- Providing an encouraging and supportive classroom environment
- Fostering the spiritual, social, intellectual, emotional and physical development of students
- Recognising that students bring with them rich life experiences that are nurtured and fostered, to allow them to maximise their learning potential
- Providing a curriculum that is based on contemporary educational research and best practice.

Scope

Our school curriculum defines what it is that all students have the opportunity to learn as a result of their schooling at St Dominic's Primary School.

At St Dominic's Primary School, curriculum is enriched by the values, beliefs, perspectives and experiences of each member of the learning community when they engage actively with Catholic understandings of the human person. This orientation towards the person means that the process of curriculum design is shared with students, creating within them a sense of ownership and self-efficacy as learners. Our learning community fosters the conditions for students to have a voice in the design process, allowing them to make decisions about what they need to know and when.

Implementation

St Dominic's Primary School will implement the curriculum by ensuring:

- St Dominic's Primary is committed to the successful implementation of each of the Victorian Curriculum F-10 learning areas from Foundation to Year 6
- The school will maintain a consistent approach across all levels in the planning and the teaching of the content of the Victorian Curriculum
- The school community will be informed of curriculum direction and implementation across the school via the Annual Report to the Community
- The Learning and Teaching Coordinator will lead the staff in the development and implementation of the Victorian Curriculum from Foundation to Year 6
- In doing so, all systemic timelines and reporting requirements will be met
- Whole school professional development opportunities will be provided, as well as personal professional development plans developed that cater for the Victorian Curriculum understanding and implementation needs of each staff member
- All teachers are required to work with their levels and at Professional Learning Team meetings to contribute to the development and implementation of guaranteed and viable Victorian Curriculum based subjects for all students and to implement student needs based lessons using agreed planning templates, assessment tools and lesson structures
- Student achievement will be measured and reported to students, parents and the wider community against the Victorian Curriculum achievement standards, in each of the learning areas
- All staff will participate in the collection of student achievement data and all staff will have input into school decisions resulting from interpretations of student achievement data
- Ongoing auditing will take place to ensure the knowledge, skills and dispositions of the Victorian Curriculum are being delivered

The curriculum is designed and delivered from whole-school to level planning to individual teacher plans. These are created in a collaborative and supported environment. This ensures that a guaranteed and viable curriculum is driving student learning and lifting student outcomes.

Curriculum content

The school implements the Victorian Curriculum in order to provide students with a comprehensive and cumulative curriculum from Foundation to Year 10.

The school’s teaching and learning program is the school-based plan for delivering this common set of knowledge and skills in ways that best utilise local resources, expertise and contexts. Information technology is an integral part of our curriculum as a basic tool for learning. Supported by our governing body, St Dominic’s Primary School will develop strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies.

St Dominic’s Primary School will also take inspiration from the *Horizons of Hope* education framework. This framework supports Catholic school communities to engage in dialogue about the distinctive nature of learning and teaching, leading learning and enhancing Catholic identity in our schools. The framework is a living document that has been added to over the years with examples of practice from schools, as well as additional strategy statements in the areas of Leadership, Wellbeing, Diversity and Religious Education.

Religious Education has a central place in the curriculum at St Dominic’s Primary School, as it reflects our unique character of Catholic identity and focus as a Catholic school. The primary source for developing our Religious Education program is the Religious Education Curriculum Framework, developed by our governing body MACS.

Whole-school curriculum plan and time allocation

The following provides an outline of the learning areas and recommended weekly time allocation across F–6. Multiple learning areas are often part of a unit and not always taught as separate subject areas. This is ensured through time allocations which are in line with recommendations of the educational authorities.

Drafting note for schools: Each school needs to substantially address the nine curriculum areas, and the times listed below provide an indication of the recommended proportion of time across the curriculum. Given the flexibility of the Victorian Curriculum, each school should identify the number of hours allocated within their Learning & Teaching Program in these guidelines. This note is to be deleted.

Learning Areas	Recommended Time Allocated
English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading & Viewing • Speaking & Listening • Grammar & Spelling • Writing 	2 hours daily (total time should not be less than 10 hours weekly on average over the course of a school year and may vary across year levels) 75 minutes per week (15 minutes daily)
Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number & Algebra • Measurement 	1 hour daily (total time should not be less than 5 hours weekly on average over the course of a school year)

Learning Areas	Recommended Time Allocated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geometry Statistics & Probability 	
Religious Education	2.5 hours weekly
Health & Physical Education	2.5 hours weekly
Arts	1 hour weekly
Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civics & Citizenship Economics Geography History Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science as a Human Endeavour Earth Science Biological Science Chemical Science Physical Science Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design & Technology Digital Technologies 	2 hours and 15 minutes weekly The learning areas of Humanities, Science, Health & Physical Education, and Technology will be taught, ensuring an average of 3 hours weekly over the course of a school year. This is through the focus of the integrated unit of work using an inquiry approach developed under the St Dominic's Primary School Conceptual Framework.
TOTAL	25 hours weekly

Capabilities

The Victorian Curriculum includes both knowledge and skills. It is expected that the skills and knowledge defined in the capabilities will be developed, practised, deployed and demonstrated by students in and through their learning across the curriculum:

- Critical & Creative Thinking
- Ethical
- Intercultural
- Personal & Social.

The skills and knowledge defined in the capabilities will be developed in student learning across the curriculum areas where it is relevant and authentic to do so.

Curriculum organisation and implementation

The school's planning for curriculum draws on the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) curriculum planning site for age-appropriate content, sequential learning patterns, and interrelated aspects of the content and skills and of the desired learning capabilities. Refer to the Pedagogical Framework.

All content is developed using the following documents:

- St Dominic's Primary School policies for each of the learning areas

- St Dominic’s Primary School Religious Education Scope and Sequence: Religious Education Curriculum Framework
- Victorian Curriculum F–10
- Statement of Philosophy.

A variety of other resources, including online resources, will be available to support planning.

Evaluation

This Policy will be monitored and reviewed by the staff, in accordance with the School Improvement Plan or as required.

School policies/references

[Curriculum Policies](#)