

# St Mary's Primary School

## Curriculum Plan



St Mary'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

**Love Above All**  
**In Our Faith, In Our Words, In Our Actions,**  
**In our Diversity, In Our Striving,**  
**In Our Sharing, In our Hoping**  
**In Our Hoping**  
***This is our Journey. This is our Truth.***  
***"Love never gives up, never loses faith,***  
***is always hopeful and endures."***  
***1Corinthians 13: 7-8***

### Mission

St Mary's strives to be a welcoming co-educational Catholic Primary School educating families from the Mt Evelyn, Silvan, Wandin, Seville and Woori Yallock areas. St Mary's Primary School provides the highest quality education, meeting the academic, spiritual, social and emotional needs of all students.

St Mary's strives to be a community of people sharing a common belief in our motto, "Love Above All". As members of a Catholic Parish school, we strive to be models of the Gospel values of love, understanding, respect and service.

We have high expectations of staff, students and parents and we anticipate that all who enrol at St Mary's, Mt Evelyn will work as one for the good of all.

### Purpose

- Implementation of the Victorian Curriculum across the school 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 in the Victorian Curriculum.
- To optimise student learning through the implementation of the Victorian Curriculum across each learning area from Foundation to Year 6, in a manner consistent with departmental requirements and school specific identified needs.
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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 Mary'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 Mary's we believe that all children can learn.

- Quality learning and teaching demands high expectations of teachers and students within the context of contemporary best practice. We believe that quality learning and teaching inspires, motivates and challenges all students and teachers; it encourages and supports an inner drive for learning across all areas: social, emotional, academic and professional.
- Quality learning and teaching is explicit, scaffolded, reflective and personalised in nature. It is maximised: when environments are welcoming, engaging and safe, when teachers know, listen to and respect their students, and when decisions are made collaboratively.
- The Catholic Faith remains central to all Learning and Teaching. Quality learning and teaching must be accessible to all members of our community in order that we enact our mission of "Love Above All."

## Scope

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

At St Mary'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 Mary's Primary School will implement the curriculum by:

- Our school is committed to the successful implementation of each of the Victorian Curriculum learning areas and capabilities from Foundation to Year 6.
- The Teaching and Learning Leader will be allocated the responsibility to lead in the implementation of the Victorian Curriculum from Foundation to Year 6.
- In doing so, all Department of Education timelines and reporting requirements will be met.
- Whole school professional development opportunities will be provided to ensure staff understand and implement the Victorian Curriculum into their teaching, planning, assessment and reflection. In addition, teachers will be notified of opportunities to seek additional professional development in the Victorian Curriculum to include in their personal professional practice.
- Our strategic plan will incorporate audits of existing curriculum areas against the Victorian Curriculum and will require faculties to work closely together to achieve consistency with curriculum implementation.
- All teachers are required to work with their respective teams to contribute to the development and implementation of the Victorian Curriculum in their planning, assessment and reflection, from Foundation to Year 6.
- Student achievement will be measured and reported to students, parents, Department of Education 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.
- Implementation of the Victorian Curriculum will be a key performance indicator of each staff member's annual performance review.

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 Mary's Primary School will develop strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies.

St Mary'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 Mary'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.

Learning Areas	Recommended Time Allocated
<b>English</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading &amp; Viewing</li> <li>• Speaking &amp; Listening</li> <li>• Grammar &amp; Spelling</li> <li>• Writing</li> </ul>	Combined 10 hours per week (5 x 2hrs)
<b>Mathematics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number &amp; Algebra</li> <li>• Measurement</li> <li>• Geometry</li> </ul>	1 hour daily (5 hrs per week)

Learning Areas	Recommended Time Allocated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistics &amp; Probability</li> </ul>	
<b>Religious Education</b>	2.5 hours weekly
<b>Health &amp; Physical Education including Wellbeing</b>	3.0 hours weekly
<b>Arts</b>	2.0 hours weekly
<b>Humanities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civics &amp; Citizenship</li> <li>Economics</li> <li>Geography</li> <li>History</li> </ul> <b>Science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Science as a Human Endeavour</li> <li>Earth Science</li> <li>Biological Science</li> <li>Chemical Science</li> <li>Physical Science</li> </ul> <b>Technology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design &amp; Technology</li> <li>Digital Technologies</li> </ul> <b>LOTE</b>	3 hours and 30 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 Mary's Primary School Conceptual Framework.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25 hours weekly</b>

## 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 Mary’s Primary School policies for each of the learning areas
- St Mary’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

[Learning Diversity](#)

[Disabilities and Impairments](#)

[Learning and Teaching](#)

[Curriculum Planning and Programming](#)

[Victorian Curriculum Policy](#)

[Professional Development Policy](#)

[Enrolment Pack](#)

[Reporting Student Progress and Achievement: 2021 Revised Guidelines for Victorian Catholic Schools](#)