

St Michael's Primary School Curriculum Plan



St Michael'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).

Curriculum and learning policy

Vision

As a welcoming community at St Michael's we will:

Unite as one family where all are valued and respected;

Embrace life experiences as opportunities for growth;

Foster self belief and the full potential of each person;

Empower all to act with dignity and purpose;

Engender a love for lifelong learning; and,

Give witness to and **celebrate** the presence of Christ in our lives.

Mission

St Michael's Primary School is a Catholic Primary School in the Parish of St Michael's North Melbourne. Our teaching is based on the beliefs of the Catholic Church and the Gospel values of Jesus Christ. St Michael's primary School is a welcoming faith community which provides high quality, inclusive education and promotes enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

We are committed to educating the whole person to their individual potential.

We support and promote the principles of Australian Democracy.

We provide programs to develop skills enabling full participation in the local community and the global context.

St Michael's Primary school provides information to the community about school performance, student achievement and wellbeing.

Purpose

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 Michael’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 Michael’s Primary School:

- Respecting, valuing and embracing the rich diversity of all members of our community, to enable a sense of connectedness and personal well being.
- Supporting the physical, social and emotional development of each individual in a safe and supportive environment.
- Learning and teaching practices that reflect our Catholic identity, multi faith community and Catholic Social Justice Teachings.
- Learning: Teachers collaborate in teams and are committed to ongoing professional development and current teaching practices in order to provide a rigorous and contemporary curriculum that is engaging.
- Providing a personalised curriculum that is student-centred, authentic, engaging and fosters a love of lifelong learning.
- Empowering students to be curious and creative about their world, encouraging them to explore and pursue their interests.

Scope

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

At St Michael’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 Michael’s Primary School will implement the curriculum by:

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

St Michael'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 Michael'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 integrated in an Inquiry 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.

Key Learning Areas

Religious Education, English, Maths, Science, Humanities (Geography, History, Civics & Citizenship, Economics & Business) and Health

Capabilities (Creative & Critical Thinking, Ethical Understanding, Intercultural Understanding, Personal and Social Capability)

Digital and Design Technologies are explicitly planned for throughout each semester, over one year.

Each week, the following time allocations for teaching time apply for all P-6 classes:

Religious Education is allocated 2.5 hours

English is allocated 8-10 hours

Mathematics is allocated 4-5 hours

LOTE is allocated 1 hour

Visual Arts is allocated 1 hour

Physical Education is allocated 2 hours. this allocation is adjusted accordingly to meet the requirements of extra programs being held throughout the year (e.g interschool sport)

The remaining key learning areas are integrated within Inquiry Learning and are allocated the remainder of available hours for all P-6 classes.

A whole school audit is conducted yearly, to ensure that the curriculum is planned for and enacted in each classroom.

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