

# St Columba's Primary School Primary School Primary School Curriculum Plan



St Columba's Primary School Primary School 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

Now as we enter this next chapter of our school's history, we see ourselves as a school for the future:

- A school that has a rich, relevant and engaging approach to learning and teaching while maintaining its tradition of care and wellbeing.
- A school where children truly flourish both academically and socially emotionally.
- A school that works together with its community as partners in education.
- A school where the 21st century is seen as an exciting new frontier where opportunities abound for each child in our care.
- A school that leads the way with sustainable practices and actions.
- A school that keeps at its heart the foundational tenets that it and the parish has been built upon respect, community, inclusion, care for our world and for the most vulnerable.
- A school that clearly sets its sights on providing learning that is engaging, rigorous, purposeful and meets the needs of learning for the future.
- A school that understands its place within the bigger global context and acknowledges and accepts the responsibility and challenges that come with this.

Our history is very much a part of who we are today and as we move forward, we will strive to honour our past whilst embracing the challenge and excitement that 'St Columba's Primary School Primary School- a school for the future', promises our community.

### Mission

As a Catholic school, we are called to act with compassion and empathy, to respect and care for our world and for the most vulnerable and to promote inclusion and provide community.

It is the village feel that captures the hearts of those who choose to enrol their children into St Columba's Primary School Primary School. The warmth and genuine nurturing environment that they see and feel as they enter permeates throughout the school and well into our community

### Purpose

St. Columba's provides an engaging environment that is stimulating, challenging and conducive to students' learning and developing positive self-esteem. The learning progress of each individual is supported and enabled through careful and regular assessment, feedback and planning of next steps. The unique qualities, special skills, interests and personal style of each individual are valued.

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. Columba's 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.

## Scope

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

At St Columba'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. Developing learner agency has been and will continue to be a key consideration when designing and enacting curriculum.

## Implementation

St Columba's Primary School will implement the curriculum by:

Teachers engage in collaborative planning with curriculum leaders each week and keep clear records of student learning. There are agreed expectations for learning across the school.

The school uses the Victorian Curriculum. The pedagogy offered at St. Columba's reflects current educational thinking that is enhanced by ongoing professional learning for staff. St. Columba's is a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme and pursuing authorization as an IB World School. IB World Schools share a common philosophy—a commitment to improve the teaching and learning of a diverse and inclusive community of students by delivering challenging, high quality programmes of international education that share a powerful vision. At the heart of all IB schools is the IB learner profile. This profile is made up of 10 attributes. As a community that includes students, teachers and families, we strive to live these attributes.

The IB PYP provides the structure for our curriculum, the transdisciplinary themes. Each unit of inquiry connects to one of the PYP's six transdisciplinary themes and explores a central idea and lines of inquiry. All year levels, except for Prep, undertake six units of inquiry in a year, which focus on learning that is significant, relevant, engaging and challenging. Prep engages in four units of inquiry yearly. As a school, we are committed to concept-based units of inquiry that actively engage and encourage learner and community participation. We are also committed to a transdisciplinary

approach to learning. This means that we look for authentic and natural ways to explore central ideas using a range of subjects.

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 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. Columba's has strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies.

St. Columba's 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. Columba's, 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. Religious Education is also embedded in our units of inquiry, playing a central role in helping students understand their Catholic identity in a range of contexts.

## 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>	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)
<b>Mathematics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number &amp; Algebra</li> <li>● Measurement</li> <li>● Geometry</li> <li>● Statistics &amp; Probability</li> </ul>	1 hour daily (total time should not be less than 5 hours weekly on average over the course of a school year)
<b>Religious Education</b>	2.5 hours weekly
<b>Health &amp; Physical Education</b>	2.5 hours weekly
<b>Arts</b>	1 hour 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>	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. These subjects are taught in the context of our units of inquiry.
<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:

- PYP: From Principles into Practice
- St Columba's Primary School policies for each of the learning areas
- St Columba's Primary School Religious Education Scope and Sequence: Religious Education Curriculum Framework
- Victorian Curriculum F–10
- Statement of Philosophy.
- St. Columba's Programme of Inquiry (POI)
- St. Columba's Social and Emotional Wellbeing scope and sequence

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.