


St John's Catholic Primary School	Last Update: 09. 01. 2023	
Version 2.0 2022	Date of Next Review: Nov 2024	



St John's is a school that 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

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Curriculum and Learning Policy

Vision

We aspire to build an inclusive community that celebrates collaboration, perseverance, contemporary pedagogies, and life-giving relationships with each other and with God in order to flourish.

Mission

At St John's Catholic Primary School:

Gospel truths are at the core of our endeavours to provide an inclusive and holistic education where 'Love is Life' is lived for all members of our community.

We engage in contemporary teaching and learning practices designed to meet the needs of every student in our care.

We encourage members of our community to build their own stories while fostering knowledge, care and concern for the stories of the First Australians on whose land our school resides.

We foster a genuine concern for others in the wider community and in the world in which we live, including principles of social justice, stewardship of the environment and positive relationships with each other.

We ensure that all members of our community work together to promote and enact behaviours consistent with Ministerial Order. 1359 - Child Safe Standards.

Values


St John's Primary School's core values are the Gospel values Jesus taught us.

Our House values are acceptance, dignity, compassion and devotion.

Objectives

To provide an inclusive and holistic education

To meet the needs of every student in our care

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To foster tolerance, respect and acceptance of others

To promote the care and correct stewardship of the world and its resources

To provide a curriculum that is rich and relevant and allows all students to succeed

To promote a strong, supportive partnership between home and the school and the wider community

To have high expectations of ourselves and others

Accredited Curriculum Overview

Foundation to Year 10

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 is the Foundation to Year 10 curriculum for Victorian government and Catholic schools. The Victorian Curriculum reflects Victorian priorities and standards for F–10 and 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.

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 can be found here:

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/pages/foundation10/f10index.aspx>

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


Scope

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

At St John's, the 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 curriculum design process, allowing them to contribute to decisions about what they need to know and when.

Curriculum Content

St John's will take inspiration from the MACS 2030: Forming Lives to Enrich the World education framework. This framework supports MACS 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 Religious Education, Leadership, Wellbeing and Diversity.

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Religious Education has a central place in the teaching and learning program at St John's as it reflects our unique character of Catholic identity and focus as a MACS school. The primary source for developing our religious education program is the MACS Religious Education Curriculum Framework.

The school implements the Victorian Curriculum F–10 in order to provide students with a comprehensive teaching and learning program across the year levels with age-appropriate content, sequential learning patterns and interrelated aspects of the content and skills of the desired learning capabilities. Refer to the *Horizons of Hope Foundation Statement – Pedagogy in a Catholic School*. The Victorian Curriculum can be found here: [Victorian Curriculum F–10](#).

All content is developed using the following documents:

- St John's Religious Education Scope and Sequence: Religious Education Curriculum Framework Document
- St John's school policies for each of the learning areas
- Victorian Curriculum F–10
- Statement of Philosophy

The school's learning and teaching program is the school-based plan for delivering this common set of knowledge and skills in ways that best use local resources, expertise and contexts. Information technology is an integral part of our curriculum as a basic tool for learning. Supported by MACS, St John's will develop strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies. Whole-school Curriculum Plan and Time Allocation

Accredited Curriculum Overview

Foundation to Year 10

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Years 11 and 12

MACS schools delivering courses to senior secondary students are required to follow the requirements and regulations set out by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). This applies to the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), the VCE Vocational Major (VM), the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC), the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) (according to the VCAA's [2023 teach out arrangements](#)) and Vocational Education and Training (VET). Any MACS school offering other accredited curriculum frameworks where approval has been granted by the governing authority (MACS) and authorisation gained by the relevant authority for delivery in MACS schools, such as the International Baccalaureate (IB), is required to follow the regulations set out by the relevant authority/authorities.

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The St John's Curriculum Plan has been developed in light of the directions for Catholic education, the Religious Education Curriculum Framework, the Victorian Curriculum F–10 and/or curriculum for senior secondary students and principles of curriculum from the *Horizons of Hope* education framework. This curriculum plan ensures excellent holistic education, centred on the students and engaging them in authentic, purposeful learning.

Scope

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Curriculum Content

St John's will take inspiration from the *Horizons of Hope* education framework. This framework supports MACS 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 Religious Education, Leadership, Wellbeing and Diversity.


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Whole-school Curriculum Plan and Time Allocation

Curriculum overview – Foundation to Year 10

The following provides an outline of the learning areas within the F–10 curriculum. Recommended weekly time allocations are listed as a guide. School curriculum plans may concentrate the teaching of particular learning areas within semester units or electives (as in the case for Years 7–10). The recommended weekly time allocations are in line with recommendations of the educational authorities and are averages of curriculum implementation which may span across the two-year cycle. Furthermore, multiple learning areas are often part of an integrated unit and not always taught as separate subject areas.

Foundation to Year 10

Learning Areas	Recommended Time Allocated
Religious Education	2 hours 30 minutes, weekly
English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading and Viewing ● Speaking and Listening ● Grammar and Spelling ● Writing 	2 hours daily Total time should not be less than 10 hours per week on average over the course of a school year and may vary across year levels.
Languages	75 minutes per week – 15 minutes daily
Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Number and Algebra ● Measurement and Geometry ● Statistics and Probability 	1 hour daily Five days per week Total time should not be less than five hours per week on average over the course of a school year.
Health and Physical Education	2 hours 30 minutes weekly
The Arts	1 hour weekly
The Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Civics and Citizenship ● Economics and Business ● Geography ● History Science Technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Design and Technology ● Digital Technologies 	2 hours and 15 minutes weekly The learning areas of Science, the Humanities, Health and Physical Education, and Technologies will be taught ensuring an average of three hours per week over the course of a school year. The focus is on the integrated unit of work using the school's evidence-based inquiry approach.
TOTAL	25 hours weekly

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Capabilities

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 includes both knowledge and skills. It is expected that the knowledge and skills defined in the Capabilities will be developed, practised, deployed and demonstrated by students in and through their learning across the curriculum.

The four capabilities of the Victorian Curriculum F–10 are:

- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Ethical
- Intercultural
- Personal and Social

Implementation

The curriculum is designed and delivered from whole-school to year-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.

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

St John's will implement the curriculum plan by the beginning of the school year.

The whole-school curriculum plan is translated into year-level planning and individual classroom teacher planning. Year levels plan together in teams according to the Victorian Curriculum and St John's Scope and Sequence documents for each learning area. We have some multi-year level planning groups where teaching teams plan units of work to be shared across the year level. We follow a two-year inquiry cycle. All curriculum planning documents are shared and can be accessed by all staff.

Evaluation

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

St John's Learning and Teaching Program

Each level maintains term planners and individual planning documents for the following areas:

- Maths Planner
- Literacy Planner
- A Curriculum Area Planning template is used for all other areas

Responsible director	Director, Learning and Regional Services
Policy owner	General Manager, Improved Learning Outcomes
Approving authority	Director, Learning and Regional Services
Approval date	November 2022
Risk rating	High
Date of next review	November 2024