

St Mary's 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

Growing together in Faith, Hope and Love.

Mission

Each individual is at the centre of all that we do – developing a love of learning, a strong sense of self and the skills and attitudes to be successful in a changing world. We believe in ensuring the flourishing and growth of each individual. We believe that building an understanding of self and well-being is as important as academic pursuits. We believe that building a positive culture of learning for everyone is imperative to success and that this is inclusive of all of our students and there is fair and equitable access for all.

We respect the dignity of every person in our community. We promote and value that each person is an individual, diverse and different in their own way. “Every individual has a personal narrative- experiences that colours what they question, the answers they seek, the possibilities they see, and the ways they come to know the truth.” (Horizons of Hope 2015)

Purpose

At St. Mary's we strive to provide an inclusive education which values diversity and celebrates difference. Diversity is enacted through a pedagogy of inclusion and a commitment to uphold the rights of all to be welcomed, valued, acknowledged and actively engaged in education.

Our learning community is committed to processes that support all students to make optimal progress and respect the rights of all students to learn in a positive and supportive environment. We seek to provide successful participation and to intervene as early as possible when students are not actively engaged in learning. Student behaviour is linked to the quality of the learning experiences. Purposeful, authentic, and relevant learning experiences that are of a sufficiently challenging yet achievable standard maximise positive behaviour.

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 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:

- Respect
- Encourage
- Inspire

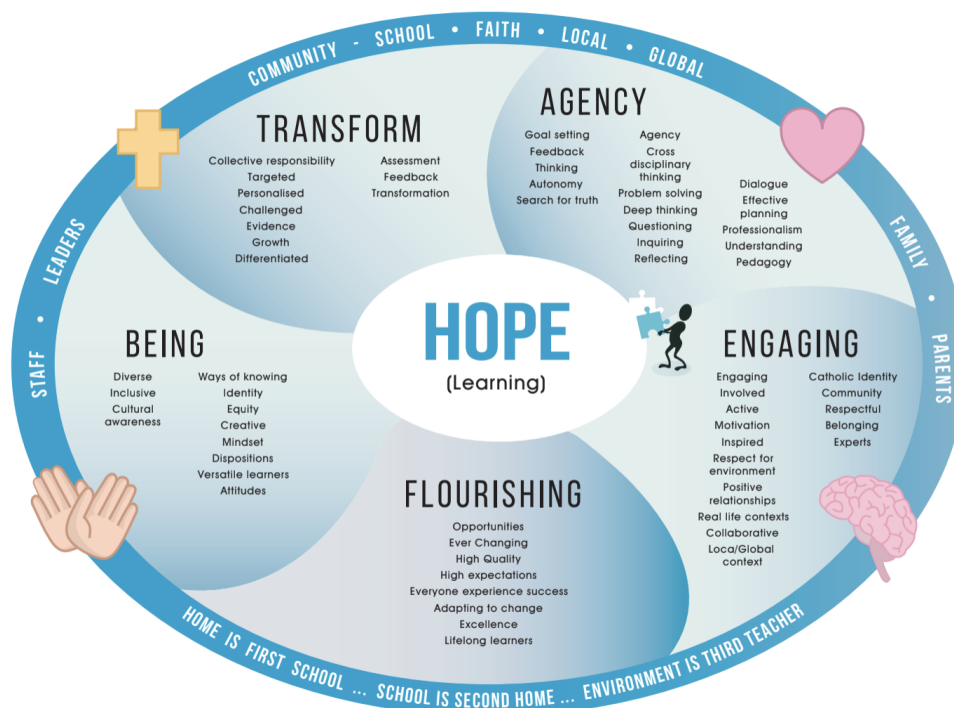
Scope

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.

At St Mary’s, 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 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 Mary's will develop strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies.

St Mary'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 Mary'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.

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	St Mary's Time Allocation
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)	2 hours Daily <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading & Viewing • Speaking & Listening • Grammar & Spelling Additional 15-20 minutes writing as part of other curriculum areas.
Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number & Algebra • Measurement • Geometry • Statistics & Probability 	1 hour daily (total time should not be less than 5 hours weekly on average over the course of a school year)	1 hour Daily <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused on a specific unit designed from the strands. 9 minutes Daily (45 minute Weekly) of Number Fluency and review.
Religious Education	2.5 hours weekly	1 hour (12 minutes Daily) of explicit learning and Prayer 1 hour 30 minutes weekly of explicit lessons
Health & Physical Education	2.5 hours weekly	Physical Education 1 hour weekly explicit lesson 1 hour weekly of sport Health 30 minute explicit lesson
Arts	1 hour weekly	Visual Arts 1 hour weekly explicit lesson
Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civics & Citizenship • Economics • Geography • History Science	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.	2 hours 15 minutes weekly 1 hour explicit STEM lesson and other time is through the focus of the integrated unit of work using an inquiry approach developed under the St Mary's Conceptual Framework.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science as a Human Endeavour • Earth Science • Biological Science • Chemical Science • Physical Science <p>Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design & Technology • Digital Technologies 		
TOTAL	25 hours weekly	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 Mary's policies for each of the learning areas
- St Mary's 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

Horizons of Hope [Foundational Statement Assessment in Catholic Schools](#)

Horizons of Hope [Foundational Statement Curriculum in Catholic Schools](#)

Horizons of Hope [Foundational Statement Learning Diversity in Catholic Schools](#)