

# St Matthew's Primary School

## Curriculum Plan



St Matthew'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), 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

At St Matthew's Catholic Primary School, we seek truth and hope through the teachings of Jesus Christ. In partnership with our wider community, we aspire to be deeply engaged learners and active global citizens.

#### 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 outlines the learning opportunities for all students and sets out 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 Matthew'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 outlines the learning opportunities for all students.

#### Principles

At St Matthew's we believe that:

- students learn best when they are in an environment where they feel they are protected, valued and respected
- students learn best when they can access a quality curriculum where they have a feeling of connectedness and belonging, of being known and valued and listened to

- students learn best when learning experiences are designed to help them develop their knowledge, skills and understandings in all areas
- students learn best when assessment practices are used to guide future learning, meet individual learning needs and are communicated in a positive, constructive manner
- students learn best when their learning connects to real life community connections beyond the classroom
- students learn best when they engage in a curriculum that challenges and prepares them to be the best possible learners.

## Scope

Our school curriculum defines the learning opportunities for all students.

At St Matthew'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 design process, allowing them to make decisions about what they need to know and when.

## Implementation

St Matthew's will implement the curriculum by developing rich, meaningful learning experiences tailored to the varying needs of the students.

The curriculum is designed and delivered from whole-school to level planning to individual teacher plans. These are created in a collaborative and supportive environment. This ensures that a 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 Matthew's will develop strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies.

St Matthew's takes 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 Matthew'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
<b>English</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading &amp; Viewing</li> <li>• Speaking &amp; Listening</li> <li>• Writing</li> <li>• Grammar &amp; Spelling</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>LOTE</b>	1 hour weekly
<b>Arts &amp; Physical Education</b>	2.5 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>Health &amp; Physical Education</b> <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. This is through the focus of the integrated unit of work using an inquiry approach developed under the St Matthew’s 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 Matthew's policies for each of the learning areas
- St Matthew'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.