

Curriculum Plan



St Raphael's Catholic 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

St. Raphael's is a Catholic primary school and an integral part of the West Preston Parish. In partnership with our parents and Church, we promote and live the gospel values and celebrate our Catholic faith and tradition. We educate children to be confident, skilled and positive contributors to our world. Inspired by the life of Jesus our patron St. Raphael and with our students at the centre of who we are and what we do, we foster positive relationships through our four pillars of honesty, hope, acceptance and trust.

We believe that children learn in a variety of ways, most effectively when all participants are actively engaged in purposeful, open-ended tasks. Children learn collaboratively through exposure to a variety of teaching styles and learning experiences, incorporating a wide variety of resources. All students need to experience success. Differences in abilities and learning styles need to be addressed.

Mission

St Raphael's Catholic Primary School is committed to providing educational opportunities that actively welcome, engage, inspire and challenge all students to learn in a safe and enlivening Catholic environment. We are committed to proclaiming our Catholic identity using ritual and symbol, enabling children to grow in confidence and to have a strong sense of self, nurturing life-giving relationships between students, staff and families and for Staff to work in a co-operative, supportive and open manner.

Purpose

At St. Raphael's Catholic Primary School, learning and teaching is innovative and dynamic. Children learn to be active and independent learners and socially responsible people.

We do this by creating a culture where leadership is shared, incorporating best practice and current education theories, introducing change which is relevant, owned and planned and fostering relationships with our broader community.

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 Raphael's Catholic 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 Raphael's Catholic Primary School, we:

- create an environment where children feel safe, happy and supported
- proclaim our Catholic identity using ritual and symbol
- educate and develop children spiritually, socially, physically, emotionally and academically
- value lifelong learning for all members of our community
- respect and care for our world and its sustainable future
- build a culture of leadership that permeates the whole school.

Scope

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

At St Raphael's Catholic 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 Raphael's Catholic Primary School will implement the curriculum by:

- All decisions made in light of the teachings of Jesus as we endeavour to live out the message of the gospel to love one another. We proclaim our Catholic Identity in our relationships with others and in all that we do.
- Aspiring to educate all students to be lifelong learners and to prepare them for a future in our contemporary world. We provide them with authentic and meaningful experiences which build their resilience in order to be active contributors in our society.
- Knowing and understanding each of our students and responding appropriately to their needs which is central to our teaching philosophy. This personalised approach allows students to be actively involved in shaping and driving their learning. In order for our students to engage

effectively in a contemporary world, we have committed to using current and emerging technologies as a tool to support all areas of learning and teaching.

- Focusing on personalising the learning for our students. Through improved team collaboration, professional learning and effective use of data to inform planning, teaching practice has become more explicit. This is evident in the way students have been grouped and workshops have been structured to support targeted student learning. Student voice has been emphasised in all learning to ensure hands-on, relevant and authentic learning experiences.
- Ensuring that Student Wellbeing is an essential element of our school. We believe it is vital to building positive relationships between students, staff and families. Children learn best when they are provided with an environment where they feel happy, safe, engaged, supported and accepted. We believe our children are all unique and, to that end, we embrace and celebrate each child's individuality.
- Believing that student learning will be enhanced through the expansion of links and partnerships with all levels of the school. We place emphasis on the importance of community involvement and are mindful of how it can impact student outcomes. Broader community relationships are valued and extend to working collaboratively with secondary schools, outside agencies and organisations.

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

St Raphael's Catholic 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 Raphael's Catholic 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 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
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)
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)
Religious Education	2.5 hours weekly
Health & Physical Education	2.5 hours weekly
Arts	1 hour weekly
Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Civics & Citizenship ● Economics ● Geography ● History Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Science as a Human Endeavour ● Earth Science ● Biological Science ● Chemical Science ● Physical Science Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Design & Technology ● Digital Technologies 	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 Raphael's Catholic Primary School Conceptual Framework.
TOTAL	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 Raphael’s Catholic Primary School policies for each of the learning areas
- St Raphael’s Catholic 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.

School policies/references

