

St Agnes' 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 Agnes' School we strive to inspire excellence in our students through an inclusive and challenging learning environment. We aim to be engaged with our community and express our Catholic faith through action.

### Mission

- **We are faith-filled:** We create an environment where students understand that their Catholic Faith and identity is the centre of all that we do. Students come to know their faith through understanding of the Gospels, the celebration of our traditions and being in relationship with God through Prayer, Liturgy and Action.
- **We care:** We provide a nurturing, purposeful and rigorous learning environment where our students feel connected with their teachers and peers, and safe to take risks and make mistakes.
- **We have a holistic approach:** We foster the development of the social, emotional, academic, spiritual and creative growth of every student.
- **We challenge:** We empower students to be resilient, flexible and curious learners who enjoy a challenge, can apply a growth mindset and become proficient problem solvers.
- **We develop thinkers:** We develop our students into critical thinkers and responsible communicators who can positively contribute to our ever changing, contemporary world.
- **We strive for improvement:** We aim to further develop staff who value collaboration and are committed to providing high-quality, best-practice teaching and learning approaches to ensure that the needs of all students are met, wherever they are on the continuum of learning.
- **We are better together:** We value and enrich positive relationships between students, staff, parents, the parish and extended community.
- **We value community:** We create opportunities for all members of our community to lead and actively contribute to the achievement of the school's shared vision and mission.

### 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 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 Agnes' 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 Agnes', we believe that:

- A well-researched balance of direct, explicit and inquiry-based learning is key to student engagement and success.
- Students will thrive in a safe, inclusive and diverse learning environment, where high expectations inspire them to reach their goals.
- Expert teachers are developed through regular and well-considered professional learning opportunities.
- Collaboration among all members of a school community is key to ongoing school improvement.
- The Catholic faith provides an authentic and meaningful lens through which global citizenship can be nurtured.

## Scope

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

At St Agnes', 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 Agnes' will implement the curriculum by:

- Providing regular and rigorous professional learning opportunities for all teaching staff, by both internal and external providers
- Scheduling adequate planning time for all teaching staff
- Planning and following a well-structured weekly schedule in each classroom
- Working collaboratively to ensure all mandated curriculum is address in all subjects and levels

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 Agnes' will develop strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies.

St Agnes' 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 Agnes', 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>• Grammar &amp; Spelling</li> <li>• Writing</li> </ul>	2 hours 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
<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. This is through the focus of the integrated unit of work using an inquiry approach developed under the St Agnes' Conceptual Framework.

Learning Areas	Recommended Time Allocated
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 Agnes' policies for each of the learning areas
- St Agnes' 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

<p>The Victorian Curriculum</p> <p>The Religious Education Curriculum</p> <p>Horizons of Hope</p> <p>All other St Agnes' Curriculum policies</p>
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