

St Francis Xavier 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), 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

St Francis Xavier School promotes equity and excellence, in a contemporary learning community. Inspired by the model of Jesus Christ, we become successful learners; confident and creative individuals; and active and informed 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 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 Francis Xavier 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.

St Francis Xavier Primary School aims to provide a range of learning and teaching experiences that will:

- continue the ministry of Jesus through our teaching of Gospel Values;
- foster the spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional and physical development of all students;
- provide a safe, nurturing and engaging learning environment which is inclusive of all;
- provide all students with a comprehensive curriculum based on the *Victorian Curriculum* and *MACS Religious Education Curriculum Framework* which is differentiated to cater for the academic needs of each individual;
- encourage inquiry, risk taking, collaboration, problem solving and reflection;
- encourage the development of respectful, responsible, thinking and productive citizens;
- foster self-esteem, confidence, independence and a desire to continue to learn;
- develop consistent pedagogical approaches utilised by all members of the teaching team;

- allow expertise of all members of the education team to be effectively utilised and developed through professional learning;
- use collaborative processes for purposeful teamwork amongst staff members;
- work in partnership with the community to provide the best possible outcomes for the students.

Principles

St Francis Xavier Primary School's Learning and Teaching pedagogy is driven by the MACS Horizons of Hope. This is used to assist teachers to reflect on their work and engage in dialogue around teaching practice and student learning within our own context. St Francis Xavier Primary School promotes consistent best practice in teaching and learning. We have a dedicated staff that demonstrates similar educational philosophies, ensuring that their knowledge, teaching skills and commitment are of the highest standard.

Curriculum and pedagogy at St Francis Xavier Primary School is deeply entrenched in faith and aims to empower students with essential knowledge, skills and capabilities for active citizenship and lifelong learning. The curriculum is planned carefully to ensure it caters for the diverse needs of different groups of students.

Learning at St Francis Xavier Primary School is dynamic, rigorous, innovative and engaging. Guided by the Victorian Curriculum, Religious Education Curriculum Framework and Horizons of Hope, teaching and learning is designed to encourage children to explore the world they live in and develop the skills and understandings that enable them to work successfully in that world. We value the importance of a connected learning environment; respectful of all learners, relevant to our contemporary world and in partnership with our wider community.

At St Francis Xavier Primary School, we are committed to designing curriculum that will support, enable and engage our students in the contemporary 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 Francis Xavier Primary School.

At St Francis Xavier 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

At St Francis Xavier Primary School, 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.

At St Francis Xavier Primary School:

- Staff are committed to planning a Prep to Year 6 curriculum which has entitlement for all and promotes high expectations for every student;
- All students will have access to a learning and teaching curriculum that comprehensively addresses all standards and capabilities within the Victorian Curriculum and MACS Religious Education Framework at their developmental level;
- A range of contemporary pedagogical approaches are employed to meet the needs of learners, e.g. Thinking Routines, Goal Setting;
- Inquiry undertaken is authentic, purposeful, structured and promotes meaning and understanding of significant ideas;

- The four Capability areas (Critical and Creative Thinking, Ethical, Intercultural, Personal and Social) are taught and used within the teaching and learning of all curriculum areas;
- Students participate in 7 Weekly Specialist Lessons: Discovery Centre (Library), Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Physical Education, LOTE: Mandarin, Digital Technologies and STEM;
- Teachers plan weekly with Level Team Members, Level Leaders and Learning and Teaching Leader to ensure successful implementation of a sequential Prep – Year 6 program using the Religious Education Curriculum Framework and the Victorian Curriculum;
- There is weekly facilitated planning for all levels where teachers are supported by the Curriculum and Level Leaders;
- Modelled and facilitated teaching caters to individual needs, providing a range of experiences and resources;
- Students have access to ‘point of need teaching’ based on quality assessment and data analysis.
- There are targeted and strategic Intervention programs in English and Mathematics to enhance children’s learning at their point of need;
- Teachers and students are encouraged to set goals and targets for themselves and to reflect on their teaching, learning and performance;
- Students are provided with opportunities to reflect on what they have learnt e.g. self-reflection journals, peer tutoring, reciprocal teaching;
- Staff encourage student success by offering timely positive feedback and constructive criticism;
- With the support of their teachers, students consistently identify their learning needs and set achievable goals;
- Pedagogical approaches enable students to develop a range of individualised learning strategies.
- Metacognition is prioritised with learning experiences and reflection, developing in students an understanding of how they best learn;
- Appropriate contemporary resources, which are inclusive of all, are readily accessible, e.g. 1:1 iPads (P-2), 1:1 Chrome Books (3-6), teacher laptops, DT computer lab;
- Students, parents and teachers work in partnership and in line with the school values and objectives to achieve the best possible opportunities and outcomes for the students;
- Students are supported by the teaching team and parents to take responsibility for their learning by establishing effective routines, work habits and time management skills;
- Consistent communications between all parties ensures a common understanding of individual student’s specific learning needs;
- Ongoing collaboration and peer mentoring for staff is enabled through weekly back to back planning, Graduate/Mentor Teacher program and other resources including support from MACS Eastern Region staff;
- There are clear and purposeful connections to Faith Education, Social Justice Action, Wellbeing and Values Education;
- We are passionate about creating authentic links to the local and global community, including our Indigenous Community – We are a Fire Carrier school.

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 Francis Xavier Primary School will develop strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies.

St Francis Xavier 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 Francis Xavier 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
Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number & Algebra • Measurement • Geometry • Statistics & Probability 	1 hour daily
Religious Education	2.5 hours 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 	2 hours 20 minutes weekly The learning areas of Humanities, Science and Health 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 Francis Xavier Primary School Conceptual Framework.
Specialist Taught Learning Areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovery Centre (library) • LOTE: Mandarin • Physical Education • Performing Arts • Visual Arts • Digital Technologies • Stem 	Students participate in one 40-minute lesson weekly in each of these learning areas with a specialist teacher.
TOTAL	25 hours weekly

Learning Areas	Recommended Time Allocated
Literacy Intervention	Year 1 to 6: 3x40 minute lessons for students (2 groups per year level with no more than 3 students per group) selected based on their results and further testing by the Literacy Intervention teachers
Numeracy Intervention	Year 1 to 6: 3x40 minute lessons for students (2 groups per year level with no more than 3 students per group) selected based on their results and further testing by the Numeracy Intervention teachers
Enrichment/Extension	Year 1 to 6: 2x40 minute lessons for students (1 group per year level with 5 students per group) selected based on their results and further testing by the Enrichment teacher.

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 Francis Xavier Primary School policies for each of the learning areas
- St Francis Xavier Primary School Religious Education Scope and Sequence: Religious Education Curriculum Framework
- Victorian Curriculum F–10

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.