

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Capabilities Policy

Definition

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 includes capabilities, which are a set of discrete knowledge and skills that can and should be taught explicitly in and through the learning areas but are not fully defined by any of the learning areas or disciplines.

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.

The four capabilities in the Victorian Curriculum F–10 are:

- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Ethical
- Intercultural
- Personal and Social

(Reference: **Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority** – Victorian Curriculum – Foundation-10)

Rationale

At St Francis Xavier Primary School, we believe the four capabilities provide an opportunity for students to develop confidence, values, adaptability, understanding, knowledge and skills and are taught and used through all their learning within the curriculum areas.

Purpose:

At St Francis Xavier Primary School, we aim to ensure that students will:

- demonstrate an awareness of their personal qualities and the factors that contribute to bouncing back after a setback;
- develop empathy for and understanding of others;
- understand how relationships are developed;
- use interpersonal skills to establish and maintain relationships;
- recognise, understand and gauge the expression of emotions;
- work effectively in teams;
- develop strategies to manage challenging situations effectively;
- demonstrate an awareness of and respect for cultural diversity within the community;
- reflect on how our experiences influence attitudes, values and beliefs;
- develop logical, strategic, flexible and creative thinking;
- analyse and evaluate ethical issues with a Catholic lens;
- develop their open-mindedness and reasonableness.

Implementation:

At St Francis Xavier Primary School:

- Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Social, Ethical and Intercultural capabilities form part of our teaching across all key learning areas, including Religious Education.
- Mathematics Planners also include capability learning areas for planning and assessment.
- The four SFX school values uses a Catholic lens to enable students to understand themselves and others, to manage their relationships and life, and think about what we ought to do, how we ought to live, what kind of society we should have and what kind of person one should be.
- Curriculum area planning and assessment takes into consideration the capabilities, e.g. Rich Assessment Tasks in Mathematics require students to reason and problem solve.
- Critical and Creative thinking forms part of planning in ICT and STEM, especially when coding.
- Thinking routines form part of student learning in all areas of the curriculum
- Respectful Relationships and Wellbeing lessons develops student learning in Personal and Social and Ethical capabilities.
- Professional Learning will include strategies and activities for teaching and learning with capabilities.
- We use a range of formal and informal assessment and evaluation strategies.
- The capabilities are reported on annually as part of student reports and include capability descriptors for assessment.

Evaluation:

This policy will be revisited every odd year (e.g. 2025, 2027), reviewed as part of the school's review cycle or as changes are made to the Victorian curriculum.