



# St Damian’s Primary School-Bundoora

# Curriculum Plan

St Damian’s 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 Damian’s School vision, “Alive in the Spirit, we journey together engaging with the present, shaping the future” embodies our beliefs as a catholic community of learners.

## Mission

St Damian’s School is founded on the teachings of Jesus Christ, where each person is treated with dignity and respect giving recognition to and nurturing the spirituality of each one. As a place of learning, St Damian’s School is committed to excellence in educational standards. We aim to provide quality learning and teaching with a strong emphasis on a holistic education of the whole child – socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically and culturally. We continue to work in partnership with families centered on providing an authentic experience of Catholic Christian community

## 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 Damian’s 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 Damian’s the learning and teaching aims to develop the students’ capacity to manage themselves, their relationships with others and their connections with the world. A fundamental component is the students’ faith development. Learning is enhanced when teachers and students work within a positive culture that reflects gospel values and respects the human person. Optimum learning occurs when teachers, working in partnership with parents, actively engage students. Monitoring students’ progress and catering for the individual ensures a personalised response to the learning needs of each student. Continuous learning is provided with clear purpose and connections to the real world where students develop the capabilities required to deal with issues and change and to act effectively as responsible members of both our community and global 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 Damian’s Primary School.

At St Damian’s, 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.TheSt Damian’s School curriculum aims to:

* Engage the learner through deep thinking, inquiry and collaboration.
* develop positive self-esteem in a safe, secure and supportive environment.
* develop the application of skills in order for the learner to engage critically and effectively in a multimodal world.
* nurtures inquiry, risk taking, reflection and success.
* Engage the learner in the process of reflection on what and how things are learnt and applying this to new contexts.
* provide learning opportunities and experiences that cater for individual needs.
* broaden educational perspectives and build new knowledge, understandings and skills.
* be active and engaging by providing opportunities for learners to work collaboratively, solve problems, share knowledge and responsibility within and beyond the school setting.
* provide knowledge, skills and understanding through comprehensive and balanced learning opportunities

# Implementation

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.

St Damian’s will implement the curriculum by:

* creating learning experiences that are challenging, engaging, and involve practical hands on activities.
* ensuring that a safe and secure learning environment is maintained to promote social, emotional and academic learning.
* an Inquiry learning approach implemented across the school.
* implementing and building on current best practice learning and teaching.
* Creating Learning sequences developed by teachers engaged in collaborative professional dialogue.
* supporting Teachers to become conversant with current educational practices through involvement in professional learning.
* assessing students against relevant curriculum learning outcomes with subsequent learning experiences reflecting individual needs.
* providing extension and intervention opportunities for all students according to needs.
* monitoring student progress through appropriate assessment and reporting procedures, to inform teaching and provide feedback.
* using current Victorian Curriculum documents to plan for learning and teaching in all curriculum areas.
* Seeking partnerships with relevant agencies, organisations and members of the wider community to broaden teaching and learning opportunities for students.
* ensuring learning and teaching is documented through planners and overviews.
* Supporting teachers to become skilled practitioners in the use of digital technologies to enhance learning opportunities.
* ongoing assessment, and the use of data, such as and PAT R & PAT M, BAS to inform teaching
* developing PLP’s for students with additional needs, identifying targets and achievement goals.

## 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 Damian’s will develop strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies.

St Damian’s 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 Damian’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** |
| --- | --- |
| **English**   * 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**   * 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** | 1.5 hours weekly |
| **Arts** | 2 hours weekly |
| **Humanities**   * Civics & Citizenship * Economics * Geography * History   **Science**   * Science as a Human Endeavour * Earth Science * Biological Science * Chemical Science * Physical Science   **Technology**   * Design & Technology * Digital Technologies | 3 hours 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 Damian’s Conceptual Framework. |
| TOTAL | **24 hours weekly** |

## Capabilities (1 hour weekly)

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 Damian’s policies for each of the learning areas
* St Damian’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.

## School policies/references

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| **St Damian’s Curriculum Policies** |