

St Mary's College

Curriculum Plan Overview



MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



St Mary's College
Seymour

St Mary's College 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

A welcoming Catholic community that respects our heritage and looks to a sustainable future.

We inspire learning excellence, resilience and service to others.

Mission

Our mission is inspired by the venerable Catherine McAuley through the Mercy values. With the College returning to Year 12 in 2025, the College mission will be revisited in the next College Strategic Plan.

Purpose

Our purpose is a commitment to developing lifelong learners with a focus on explicit teaching and reflective practices that promote high expectations and entitlement for all. These practices facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, skills and understandings which allow for deeper connections to be made across learning. At St Mary's College, we strive to continue the Mercy tradition of: Compassion, Justice; Respect; Hospitality; Service; and courage in all of our daily actions.

Accredited Curriculum Overview

Foundation to Year 10

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 is the Foundation to Year 10 curriculum for Victorian government and Catholic schools. The Victorian Curriculum reflects Victorian priorities and standards for F–10 and 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.

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 can be found here:

<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/pages/foundation10/f10index.aspx>

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 recognises that increasingly, in a world where knowledge itself is constantly growing and evolving, students need to develop discrete discipline knowledge and understanding, in addition to a set of skills, behaviours and dispositions. These general capabilities apply across discipline content and equip students to be lifelong learners able to operate with confidence in a complex, information-rich, globalised world.

Years 11 and 12

MACS schools delivering courses to senior secondary students are required to follow the requirements and regulations set out by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). This applies to the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), the VCE Vocational Major (VM), the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC), the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) (according to the VCAA's [2023 teach out arrangements](#)) and Vocational Education and Training (VET). Any MACS school offering other accredited curriculum frameworks where approval has been granted by the governing authority (MACS) and authorisation gained by the relevant authority for delivery in MACS schools, such as the

International Baccalaureate (IB), is required to follow the regulations set out by the relevant authority/authorities.

The St Mary's College Curriculum Plan has been developed in light of the directions for Catholic education, the Religious Education Curriculum Framework, the Victorian Curriculum F–10 and Victorian Certificate of Education curriculum for senior secondary students and principles of curriculum from the *Horizons of Hope* education framework. This curriculum plan ensures excellent holistic education, centered on the students and engaging them in authentic, purposeful learning.

Scope

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

At St Mary's College the 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 curriculum design process, allowing them to contribute to decisions about what they need to know and when.

Curriculum Content

St Mary's College will take inspiration from the *Horizons of Hope* education framework. This framework supports MACS 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 Religious Education, Leadership, Wellbeing and Diversity.

Religious Education has a central place in the teaching and learning program at St Mary's College as it reflects our unique character of Catholic identity and focus as a MACS school. The primary source for developing our religious education program is the MACS Religious Education Curriculum Framework.

The school implements the Victorian Curriculum F–10, and the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) in selected subjects, in order to provide students with a comprehensive teaching and learning program across the year levels with age-appropriate content, sequential learning patterns and interrelated aspects of the content and skills of the desired learning capabilities. Refer to the *Horizons of Hope Foundation Statement – Pedagogy in a Catholic School*.

The Victorian Curriculum can be found here: [Victorian Curriculum F–10](#).

The VCE curriculum can be found here: <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/Pages/Index.aspx>

All content is developed using the following documents:

- St Mary's College Religious Education Scope and Sequence: Religious Education Curriculum Framework Document
- St Mary's College policies for each of the learning areas
- Victorian Curriculum F–10
- Victorian Certificate of Education
- Statement of Philosophy
- Learning and Teaching Policy
- Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy

The school's learning and teaching program is the school-based plan for delivering this common set of knowledge and skills in ways that best use local resources, expertise and contexts. Information technology is an integral part of our curriculum as a basic tool for learning. Supported by MACS, St

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

Whole-school Curriculum Plan and Time Allocation

Curriculum overview – Foundation to Year 10

The following provides an outline of the learning areas within the F–10 curriculum. Recommended weekly time allocations are listed as a guide. School curriculum plans may concentrate the teaching of particular learning areas within semester units or electives (as in the case for Years 7–10). The recommended weekly time allocations are in line with recommendations of the educational authorities and are averages of curriculum implementation which may span across the two-year cycle. Furthermore, multiple learning areas are often part of an integrated unit and not always taught as separate subject areas.

Foundation to Year 10

| Learning Areas | Recommended Time Allocated |
|--|---|
| Religious Education | 2 hours 30 minutes, weekly |
| English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and Viewing • Speaking and Listening • Grammar and Spelling • Writing | 2 hours daily Total time should not be less than 10 hours per week on average over the course of a school year and may vary across year levels. |
| Languages | 75 minutes per week – 15 minutes daily |
| Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and Algebra • Measurement and Geometry • Statistics and Probability | 1 hour daily Five days per week Total time should not be less than five hours per week on average over the course of a school year. |
| Health and Physical Education | 2 hours 30 minutes weekly |
| The Arts | 1 hour weekly |
| The Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civics and Citizenship • Economics and Business • Geography • History Science Technologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and Technology • Digital Technologies | 2 hours and 15 minutes weekly The learning areas of Science, the Humanities, Health and Physical Education, and Technologies will be taught ensuring an average of three hours per week over the course of a school year. The focus is on the integrated unit of work using the school's evidence-based inquiry approach. |
| TOTAL | 25 hours weekly |

Capabilities

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 includes both knowledge and skills. It is expected that the knowledge and skills defined in the Capabilities will be developed, practised, deployed and demonstrated by students in and through their learning across the curriculum.

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

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

Curriculum Overview – Years 11 and 12

Senior pathways will commence at St Mary's College in 2024 with the first Year 11 cohort beginning for 35 years.

In 2023, and for this beginning cohort in 2024, there will be two ways to obtain the VCE. Students can choose to enrol in the VCE or the VCE Vocational Major (VM). Students currently studying Senior VCAL or Intermediate VCAL can transfer to the VCE VM with credit for completed subjects. For students not yet ready or unable to undertake the VCE or the VCE VM, the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) is a new flexible option. Students currently studying Foundation VCAL can transfer to the VPC with credit for completed subjects. Foundation VCAL students can also transfer to the VCE VM.

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

The VCE is a senior secondary certificate of education recognised within the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). It is designed to be completed over a minimum of two years, and includes general education curriculum components (VCE studies) and programs from VET qualifications. The VCE opens pathways to university, high-level TAFE or VET certificate courses, apprenticeships, traineeships and the workforce.

To be eligible to receive the VCE, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 16 units which must include:

- three units from the VCE English group, including a Unit 3–4 sequence
- at least three other sequences of Unit 3–4 VCE studies, which can include further sequences from the VCE English group.

VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM)

The VCE VM is a vocational and applied learning program within the VCE, designed to be completed over a minimum of two years. The VCE VM is a good pathway for students into an apprenticeship, traineeship, further study or directly into a job. It includes specified VCE VM units, VCE units and VET.

To be eligible to receive the VCE VM, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 16 units which must include

- three VCE VM Literacy or VCE English units (including a Unit 3–4 sequence)
- two VCE VM Numeracy or VCE Mathematics units
- two VCE VM Work Related Skills units
- two VCE VM Personal Development Skills units
- two VET credits at Certificate II level or above (180 nominal hours)
- a minimum of three other Unit 3–4 sequences.

Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) (according to the VCAA's 2023 teach out arrangements)

To support the introduction of the VCE VM and the VPC, the VCAA has released [teach out arrangements for 2023](#). The transition period allows Intermediate VCAL to be awarded to eligible Year 12 students in

2023. Eligible students are Year 11 students who are enrolled in Foundation VCAL or Intermediate VCAL in 2022.

The VCAL is a senior secondary certificate of education recognised within the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The VCAL can include components of accredited Vocational Education and Training (VET) including Further Education (FE) qualifications from within the AQF, and VCE studies. To be awarded the Intermediate VCAL qualification in 2023, Year 12 students must successfully complete a learning program that contains a minimum of 10 credits and includes:

- curriculum components that can be justified against the purpose statement for the Literacy and Numeracy Skills Strand: one credit is required for Literacy Skills and one credit is required for Numeracy Skills
- curriculum components to the value of at least one credit that can be justified against the purpose statement for each of the Work Related Skills Strand, Personal Development Skills Strand and Industry Specific Skills Strand
- a minimum of two VCAL units, one of which must be a VCAL Personal Development Skills unit at level
- curriculum components to the value of six credits at the level of the VCAL award or above – one of which must be for Literacy Skills.

Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC)

The VPC is an accredited foundation secondary qualification that aligns to Level 1 in the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). The VPC is not a senior secondary qualification, but it can be a pathway to VCE or the VCE VM for students in Years 11 and 12 who are not yet ready or able to complete the VCE or the VCE VM. The VPC has a flexible duration depending on a student's individual learning plan; it may be completed in a minimum of 12 months.

To be eligible to receive the VPC, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 12 units, including:

- at least two units of VPC Literacy (or units from the VCE English group including VCE VM Literacy)
- at least two units of VPC Numeracy (or units from the VCE Mathematics group including VCE VM Numeracy)
- at least two VPC Personal Development Skills units
- at least two VPC Work Related Skills units.

Students can also include units from VCE studies, VCE VM studies and VET units of competency. VPC students can receive VET credit for 90 nominal hours at the Certificate I or above level and receive structured workplace learning recognition.

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Recognition of VET within the VCE, VCE VM, VCAL (according to the VCAA's [2023 teach out arrangements](#)) and VPC, ensures that students who complete all or part of a nationally recognised VET (including Further Education) qualification may receive credit towards satisfactory completion of the VCE, VCE VM, VCAL or VPC. MACS schools are required to have appropriate courses, assessment, reporting and administrative processes in place to ensure students undertaking a VCE, VCE VM, Intermediate VCAL (according to the VCAA's [2023 teach out arrangements](#)) or VPC program, including VET courses, have access to the necessary teaching and learning programs. The VCAA's *Administrative Handbook* and the specific VCE study designs, VCE VM study designs, VCAL curriculum documents (according to the VCAA's [2023 teach out arrangements](#)), VPC curriculum designs and VET units of competency set out the teaching, learning and assessment requirements for all schools.

Implementation

The curriculum is designed and delivered from whole-school to year 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.

A variety of other resources, including online resources, are available to support planning. St Mary's College will implement the curriculum plan through the use

All sectors

Time allocation as part of fortnightly teaching cycle and after school meeting time.

All planning documents is required to be uploaded to the SIMON system and central storage area.

Primary sector

Planning in year group teams to facilitate adherence to, design and implementation of the Victorian F-10 curriculum.

Planning in learning area teams Foundation -Year 2 and Year 3 – Year 6 to establish a coherently mapped curriculum across the stages.

Secondary Teams

Planning in year group teams to design and teach units of work to be implemented across the two year cycle.

Coherent curriculum mapping is facilitated through the use of VCAA compliant mapping templates.

Evaluation

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the staff, in accordance with the School Improvement Plan or as required.

School Policies

College Policies can be accessed via <https://www.smseymour.catholic.edu.au/welcome/college-policies/>

Scope and Sequence – St Mary's College Learning and Teaching Program

St Mary's College learning and teaching program is in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum scope and sequence requirements - <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/foundation-10/resources/Pages/default.aspx>

Families wishing to obtain a copy of a College scope and sequence for a particular year level, can do so by contacting the Director, Learning and Teaching via the College Office.

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| Responsible director | Director, Learning and Regional Services |
| Policy owner | General Manager, Improved Learning Outcomes |
| Approving authority | Director, Learning and Regional Services |
| Approval date | November 2022 |
| Risk rating | High |
| Date of next review | November 2024 |

| POLICY DATABASE INFORMATION | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Related documents | |
| Superseded documents | School Curriculum Plan Overview – v1.0 – 2021 |
| New policy | |

