

# Stella Maris School

## Curriculum Plan



Stella Maris 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

#### **Potential, Learning, Energy, Faith, Courage**

At the heart of Stella Maris is the desire to develop the infinite potential of every person.

Learning is a journey of endless possibilities where we are energised to seek and explore questions about the world around us.

Nourished by a strong sense of belonging is the foundation upon which our community can flourish. Through Jesus Christ, learning enlivens our Catholic Faith, so that we can live, learn and grow with 'courage always'

### Mission

#### **At Stella Maris our mission is to:**

- Develop and nurture a deep understanding of Catholic Faith- its teachings, traditions, liturgy and the celebration of the sacraments and feasts. We come to know Jesus through Scripture and each other, as we follow His mission in our day to day lives.
- Provide the environment, skills and opportunities where individuals can develop a positive sense of self and foster healthy relationships.
- Interpret and design the curriculum so that it is inclusive, purposeful and challenging while demonstrating best teaching practice, so all learners will realize their full potential.
- Promote open, active and honest communication and democratic processes in a spirit of inclusiveness.
- Invite the community to participate in school and Parish based initiatives and seek ways in which we become active global citizens.

### Purpose

As our vision and mission statements articulate, Stella Maris is a Catholic Parish Primary School, where our Catholic faith, values, ideals and attitudes are taught, practised and valued within a Christian community. We are committed to respecting the individuality of all children, while aiming to develop their physical, social, intellectual, moral and spiritual capabilities. Our broad curriculum, based on the Victorian Curriculum, is relevant and challenging and encourages excellence. Children are encouraged, in a positive manner, to be optimistic, focused, independent learners and parents are encouraged to be involved in the development of their child's learning. Specialist programs are offered in the Japanese Language, Visual Arts, Physical Education, Performing Arts and Library. Reading Recovery is available for selected Year 1 students.

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 Stella Maris 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 Stella Maris School, our values are:

- Faith
- Respect
- Empathy
- Trust
- Honesty
- Justice
- Service
- Courage Always

## Scope

Our school curriculum defines what it is that all students have the opportunity to learn as a result of their schooling at Stella Maris School.

At Stella Maris 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

Stella Maris School will implement the curriculum guided by Horizons of Hope to respond to the current challenges within our education context and the challenge of enhancing Catholic identity within our schools. The Horizons of Hope framework will aid us to learn together and in dialogue with the

Catholic tradition, to work from evidence, to animate and support learners, and to lead in faith and transformation.

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, Stella Maris School will develop strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies.

Stella Maris 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 Stella Maris 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
<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 (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)
<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 (total time should not be less than 5 hours weekly on average over the course of a school year)
<b>Religious Education</b>	2.5 hours weekly

Learning Areas	Recommended Time Allocated
<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 Stella Maris School Conceptual Framework.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25 hours weekly</b>

## 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:

- Stella Maris School policies for each of the learning areas
- Stella Maris School 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

See Other Policies on Stella Maris School website.