

St Michael's School Ashburton

Curriculum Plan



St Michael's School Ashburton 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 Michael's School is a safe community of animated learners. Enlightened by faith in God.

Mission

St Michael's is a Catholic school where each of the following statements is considered of equal importance. In the context of Our Vision, each child is encouraged to develop:

- a sense of self-esteem, acceptance and resilience
- an awareness of the uniqueness and worth of each individual as gifted and loved by God
- an active participation in the life of the Faith community
- an enthusiasm for learning
- competence in all Key Learning Areas
- the ability to be creative, imaginative and open to change
- respect for self and others and
- responsibility for their own decisions and actions
- pastoral Care for all members of the school community is of prime importance
- reconciliation/Forgiveness is taught and practised so joy can be expressed and affirmation can be given
- children, parents and staff are nurtured in a faith environment so that they may grow in their relationship with God and each other
- each child learns in a physically safe and emotionally secure environment where they feel accepted and challenged to work to their own potential
- the individual needs and learning styles of each child is recognised and accommodated
- each staff member works cooperatively with compassion and sensitively as a part of a team, while striving for professionalism, excellence and personal growth
- we endeavour to recognise, respect, share and encourage the expertise and involvement of parents in the ongoing education of their children
- we strive to give recognition to the educational needs of the financially disadvantaged in our Parish and act as their advocates

Purpose

Through a distinctively Catholic lens, St Michael's commits to the full flourishing and animation of learners. Teachers will develop a growth mindset and build deep pedagogical knowledge and capacity. As active agents teachers will collaborate using data, research and evidence to ensure maximum progress and growth for all. St Michael's will authentically engage our parents and forge strong

partnerships establishing connected and innovative communities of life-worthy, hopeful and meaningful learning.

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 Michael’s School Ashburton 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 Michael’s School Ashburton, our school wide, aka SMASH expectation are: Stay Safe

- **M**ake a Difference
- **A**ct Responsibly
- **S**how Respect
- **H**elp Others

Our SMASH expectations aim to offer a safe and harmonious environment for learning where it is recognised that we are responsible for our own actions. Parents/caregivers are encouraged to spend some time talking about these expectations with their children and how they might translate to the home environment. This will continue to make St Michael’s a safer and happier school for all.

Scope

Our school curriculum defines what it is that all students have the opportunity to learn as a result of their schooling at St Michael’s School Ashburton.

At St Michael’s School Ashburton, 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

St Michael's School Ashburton will implement the curriculum by:

The curriculum is designed and delivered from whole-school to level planning and 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 6.

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

St Michael's School Ashburton 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 Michael's School Ashburton, 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 - 10 hours weekly
Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number & Algebra• Measurement• Geometry• Statistics & Probability	1 hour daily - 5 hours weekly

Learning Areas	Recommended Time Allocated
Religious Education	2.5 hours weekly
Health & Physical Education	1.5 hours weekly
Arts- Visual and Performing Arts	1.6 hours weekly
LOTE- Mandarin	40 minutes weekly
Wellbeing	1 hour 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 Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design & Technology • Digital Technologies 	3.5 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 Michael's School Ashburton Conceptual Framework.
TOTAL	25 hours weekly

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 Michael's School Ashburton policies for each of the learning areas

- St Michael’s School Ashburton Religious Education Scope and Sequence: Religious Education Curriculum Framework
- Victorian Curriculum F–6
- 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

[English Policy](#)

[Maths Policy](#)

[Religious Educational Policy](#)

[Arts Policy](#)

[Science Policy](#)

[St Michael's Learning and Teaching Policy 2020.pdf](#)

[Health and Physical Education Policy](#)

[LOTE Policy](#)