

St Finbar's Primary Curriculum Plan



St Finbar's Primary 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

At St Finbar's contemporary learning is developed in the context of a Catholic Community using the Victorian Curriculum. The teaching and learning at St Finbar's Primary enables our students to succeed by engaging them in rich, authentic learning experiences which foster a deep understanding about the world. It recognises and celebrates the diversity of all students, by allowing them to work individually and collegially towards achieving personalised learning goals via differentiated pathways. Contemporary learning prepares our students for lifelong learning within and beyond the classroom. It is designed to engage learners in creating new knowledge and understandings and incorporates the appropriate use of contemporary technologies and resources.

Mission

St Finbar's is a Catholic Primary School Community which aims to provide a safe, supportive and dynamic learning environment in which each member is respected and nurtured.

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 Finbar's Primary 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 Finbar's Primary we believe that the most effective teaching and learning occurs at St Finbar's School when:

- Students feel valued and secure in their learning environment.
- Programmes are designed to nurture the spiritual, intellectual, physical, social, emotional and creative development of all.
- Teachers plan with clear objectives, high expectations of students and themselves.
- A positive relationship exists through knowing and valuing each student.

LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

We believe that the most effective teaching and learning occurs at St Finbar's School when:

- Informed planning occurs in a structured and strategic way. Curriculum overviews, plans and individual work programs are maintained on a shared Google drive to reflect our collaborative approach to curriculum planning.
- Through consultation, the Leadership Team supports, assists and directs colleagues in fulfilling their roles.
- Effective and ongoing assessment empowers teachers to drive high quality learning and teaching.
- Assessment drives planning
- Assessment is both formative and summative
- Assessment includes self and peer assessment
- Students are taught how to set learning goals
- Assessment data is analysed and used
- Records and evidence are kept
- Assessment results are shared with students and parents in 'user friendly language'
- Prompt feedback is given to students

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TEAMS

We believe that the most effective teaching and learning occurs at St Finbar's School when:

- The Leaders act as guides and co-learners.
- Teachers' beliefs and understandings are challenged and affirmed through professional development.
- We share responsibility for all students' learning.
- We share responsibility for the team's professional growth.
- Curriculum teaching practice is reviewed each term and reporting period at PLTs, staff meetings and leadership team meetings.

SCHOOL / HOME / COMMUNITY LINKS

We believe that the most effective teaching and learning occurs at St Finbar's School when:

- Relationships are based on mutual respect and understanding.
- There is communication between school and home.
- Parents become partners in all aspects of school life.
- Community links are used to support individual needs and to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in the school.

Scope

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

At St Finbar's Primary, 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.

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

St Finbar's Primary 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 Finbar's Primary, 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 (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)

Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	2.5 hours weekly
Arts	2 hours 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 	2 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 Finbar's Primary Conceptual Framework.
TOTAL	24 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 Finbar's Primary policies for each of the learning areas
- St Finbar's Primary 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.