



**St Mary’s Williamstown**

# Curriculum Plan Overview

Stis 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

St. Mary’s School, Williamstown, is a Catholic community with a proud history.

We strive to live the Gospel and promote excellence through an engaging curriculum

and innovative educational opportunities, so as to nurture a love of learning and assist all

members on our journey through life to make a difference in our world.

## 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.

### Senior secondary – Years 11 and 12

MACS schools delivering senior secondary courses to 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 Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) and Vocational Education and Training (VET). Any MACS school offering other accredited curriculum frameworks approved for delivery in schools by MACS, such as the International Baccalaureate (IB), is required to follow the regulations set out by the governing curriculum authority.

The St Mary’s WilliamstownCurriculum Plan has been developed in light of the directions for Catholic education, the Religious Education Curriculum Framework, the Victorian Curriculum F–10 and/or senior secondary curriculum and principles of curriculum from the *Horizons of Hope* education framework. This curriculum plan ensures excellent holistic education, centred 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 Williamstown.

At St Mary’s Williamstown, 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 Williamstownwill 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 Williamstownas 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 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](https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/).

All content is developed using the following documents:

* St Mary’s Williamstown Religious Education Scope and Sequence: Religious Education Curriculum Framework Document
* St Mary’s Williamstown school policies for each of the learning areas
* Victorian Curriculum F–10
* Statement of Philosophy.

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 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 Williamstownwill 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

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| **Learning Areas** | **Recommended Time Allocated** |
| **Religious Education** | 2 hours 30 minutes, weekly |
| **English**   * 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**   * 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**   * Civics and Citizenship * Economics and Business * Geography * History   **Science**  **Technologies**   * 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 – Senior Secondary

#### 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 minimum requirement for satisfactory completion of the VCE is the satisfactory completion of 16 units which must include:

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

#### Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)

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. The VCAL is accredited and issued at three award levels. VET training is a compulsory requirement for completion of VCAL certificates at intermediate and senior level. To be awarded any VCAL qualification, 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.

### Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Recognition of VET, including Further Education (FE) within the VCE and VCAL, ensures that students who complete all or part of a nationally recognised VET (including FE) qualification may receive credit towards satisfactory completion of the VCE or VCAL. Students would typically undertake training at Certificate II or III level. MACS schools are required to have appropriate courses, assessment, reporting and administrative processes in place to ensure students undertaking a VCE or VCAL program, and/or VET courses, have access to the necessary teaching and learning programs. The VCAA *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook* and the specific VCE study designs and/or VCAL curriculum guides and/or VET modules set out these 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 Williamstownwill implement the curriculum plan by

## Evaluation

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

## School Policies

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| Learning and Teaching Policy |

## Scope and Sequence – St Mary’s Williamstown Learning and Teaching Program

**[Note:** the school learning and teaching program should be attached here. This will provide parents/guardians/carers/relevant person with an outline of the structure of the learning and teaching program across learning areas and year levels. The scope and sequence should show the program across two-year bands. **This note should be deleted prior to publishing on the school website.]**