

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary 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

The curriculum as St. Francis of Assisi is set within the context of the school's educational mission. This provides a vision carried out in a spirit of service to our students. Our curriculum is consistent with clearly articulated policies which are communicated to the wider community. Our review process ensures that we develop a curriculum that brings together learning, life and faith.

Vision

St Francis of Assisi Parish Primary School is a gospel centred learning community who live out the teachings of Jesus Christ. We believe that our Catholic faith and lifelong journey is interrelated. We are committed to the continual Faith development of our community where we experience Jesus through our faith and daily life, recognising that the Spirit is alive in people.

Learning at St Francis enables the formation of knowledge, capabilities and values. We believe that this fosters meaningful engagement in learning in order to become informed, empowered and active global citizens in a contemporary and connected world. We value opportunities for learning and reflection that challenge us to aspire to individual excellence, whilst maintaining the dignity and worth of the whole person.

Charism

- We encourage open communication between children, teachers and parents to foster understanding, patience, trust, forgiveness and loving concern.
- We will foster self-discipline, respect for self and others, and responsible decision making.
- We will aim to stimulate and encourage the children's growth in the development of their full potential.
- As professional educators we realise our responsibility to expand the knowledge and understanding of parents in current educational trends, new programmes in schools, developments, techniques, procedures and teacher expectations. The forum by which this responsibility may be undertaken would include Information Nights, Newsletters and Open Days.
- As staff members we will foster and encourage professional development. Through friendship, support and recreational activities we will strive to create a confident and positive outlook for each individual.
- We at St. Francis of Assisi, are committed to the continual faith development of our children. We aim to build and develop knowledge and awareness of the Catholic Faith by strengthening and deepening relationships with their family, school, community and Church.

Purpose

At St. Francis of Assisi, the review ensures that the curriculum:

- Reflects the values and attitudes of the Catholic school
- Provides for students' growth in learning
- Ensures that basic and essential skills are achieved
- Nurtures the worth of each individual

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.' <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, 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 Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary 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 Framework 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

- We develop positive relationships, which reflect our faith filled community. We make a difference in our world by living out our Catholic values and traditions.
- Partnerships are essential in supporting all learning and wellbeing.
- Our students are engaged in purposeful learning and their learning is monitored, shared and celebrated.
- Our students are learning within and beyond the classroom and are connecting with others.
- Our staff enhance their individual practice by working collaboratively to provide engaging and relevant learning opportunities.

Scope

Our School curriculum defines what it is that all students have the opportunity to learn as a result of their schooling at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School.

At St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary 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 designing process, allowing them to make decisions about what they need to know and when.

Implementation

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School will implement the curriculum by:

- Aligning our teaching with the Victoria Curriculum.
- School planning at St Francis of Assisi school is an integral part of the curriculum mapping.
- Planning for the effective learning of knowledge that integrates key learning honouring Victoria Curriculum, such as- Humanities- History, Civics and Citizenship, Geography, Economics Science, Technologies- Design & Digital, The Arts and Health.
- To plan for the effective use of 21st century skill honouring Victoria Curriculum learning such as- Technologies- Digital and Design, Personal & Social Learning and Critical & Creative Thinking, Intercultural Capability and Ethical Capability.
- Evaluating units of integrated Inquiry
- Checking Work programs for effective organisation of teaching strategies, learning intentions and promotion of students' personal and spiritual development
- Developing yearly scope and sequence of units taught to ensure students' growth along a continuum of learning.
- Maintaining a consistent approach across all levels in the planning of integrated units
- Providing Professional Development as guided by the School Improvement Plan.

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-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 Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School will develop strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies.

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School will also take inspiration from the *Horizons of Hope Education Framework for the Archdiocese of Melbourne*. 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 Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary 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.

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 Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School policies for each of the learning areas
- St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary 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.

Timetabled allocation:

The timetable is structured on a fortnightly basis. The breakdown is as follows:

FOUNDATION TO YEAR 4	
Domain	Expected time allocation per week
English	600 minutes
Mathematics	300 minutes
Religious Education	150 minutes
Unit of Integrated Inquiry linked to content areas of Science, Humanities- History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, Arts, Technologies- Design and Digital, Health	120 minutes
Unit of Integrated Inquiry linked to skills based learning- areas - Technology, Critical & Creative Thinking, Personal & Social learning (linked to You Can Do It program), Intercultural Capability, Ethical Capability	90 minutes
LOTE - Italian	40 minutes per fortnight (20m)
Library	60 minutes per fortnight (30m)
Arts- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Music ➤ Performing Arts ➤ Visual Arts 	120 minutes per fortnight (40 minutes of each strand) (60m)
Physical Education	60 minutes per week
Technology - Computers	40 minutes per fortnight (20m)
Science - Specialist	40 minutes per fortnight (20m)
<i>Adds up to 24.5 hours</i>	<i>24 hours 30mins (1470 minutes)</i>

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 VCCA 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 Pedagogical Framework.

All content is developed using the following documents:

- *St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School's* School Policies for each of the Learning Areas
- *St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School's* Religious Education Scope and Sequence: Religious Education Curriculum Framework Document
- Victorian Curriculum Framework 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

- Religious Education Policy
- Integrated Inquiry Learning Policy
- Learning and Teaching Policy
- Mathematics Policy
- English Policy
- Humanities Policy
- Sciences Policy