

St George Preca 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

Vision

At St George Preca School, within the parish of St Catherine of Siena, we seek to follow the example of our patron saint, St George Preca who lived his life through the Gospel values. His work was based on his belief that, "... the whole world accepts the Gospel".

In the spirit of St George Preca we strive to develop a welcoming community who are resilient, independent and lifelong learners.

At St George Preca School we are a family. We value the individuality of each member of our community and the unique gifts and talents they bring.

We strive to provide a Christ-centred Catholic education providing excellent, inclusive and contemporary schooling.

Mission

St George Preca is committed to providing educational opportunities that actively welcome, engage, inspire and challenge all students to learn in a safe and enlivening Catholic environment.

Therefore, we value:

RESPECT – We show respect for all people, property and the environment.

SAFETY – We care for our own safety and the safety of others.

COOPERATION – We work together to make our school a place of learning and fun for all.

'HAVE – A – GO' ATTITUDE – We always try our best and have a go at new and different things.

Purpose

In the spirit of St George Preca we strive to:

- provide Teaching and Learning programs that focus on Faith Formation and Development and Personalised Learning pathways
- to develop an inquiring mind in students
- develop a welcoming community who are resilient, independent and lifelong learners
- create a community in which every individual is cared for spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally.

We value the partnership which exists between parish, school, parents and wider community and its integral role in realising this vision.

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 George Preca 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 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 George Preca Primary School we ensure that our approach to learning and teaching are reflected in our vision and mission of promoting success for all.

We focus on the spiritual, intellectual, physical, social and emotional growth of each individual. We believe that learning is lifelong and that it should be a rewarding and challenging experience for all. Through our teaching, we equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding about the world and how it operates and how they can operate effectively in that world.

St. George Preca Primary School is a community of learners – students, teachers and parents. We are a community with a shared understanding that learning is a shared responsibility that requires active participation and commitment in order for students to flourish . We aim to provide a caring, supportive and stimulating environment with high quality teaching which fosters:

- a whole school approach to planning, implementing and monitoring of educational programs addressing the individual needs of each child
- classroom teaching and learning approaches that reflect our values and beliefs about learners, including differentiating tasks to allow all students to access and engage with the curriculum
- high student learning outcomes through quality teaching practices and programs
- a safe, engaging and challenging environment where learning is meaningful and curriculum decisions are based on students' needs
- hands – on and active learning where students are encouraged to take risks and make connections to their everyday life

- participation in assessment processes that inform decisions about future learning
- strong partnerships between home and school where families are informed and involved
- the appropriate and ethical use of contemporary technologies and resources that enable and transform learning
- interventions for learners not meeting targets are implemented to accelerate a student's learning beyond what she or he can do alone.

Scope

Our school curriculum defines what it is that all students have the opportunity to learn as a result of their schooling at St George Preca Primary School

At St George Preca 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 design process, allowing them to make decisions about what they need to know and when.

Implementation

St George Preca Primary School will implement the curriculum by:

- appointing two Literacy and two Numeracy Learning & Teaching Leaders to facilitate planning, support and develop our teachers content and pedagogical knowledge and mentor and coach
- planning weekly in teams (alternating literacy and mathematics) and using data to drive our learning sequences
- using standards from The Victorian Curriculum (and Learning Progressions) which underpin curriculum planning and implementation
- providing opportunities for professional learning that is ongoing and specifically targeted to improving teaching practice in line with the schools goals and priorities (School Improvement Plan and Annual Action Plan)
- providing Professional Learning Team meetings weekly with a focus on either Literacy or Numeracy enabling opportunities for professional dialogue, professional reading, analysis of data to inform teaching and the selection of appropriate and meaningful activities
- maintaining an individual weekly program which outlines activities, Learning Intentions and Success Criteria including adjustments in accordance with NCCD
- using ongoing assessment and evaluation through such means as observation checklists, rich assessment tasks, pre and post testing, work samples and other assessment tools as outlined in our assessment schedules. Teachers also record anecdotal and other notes in monitoring booklets.

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, St George Preca Primary School will develop strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies.

St George Preca Primary 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 St George Preca 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.

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) 75 minutes per week (15 minutes daily)
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	1 hour weekly
Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civics & Citizenship • Economics • Geography • History 	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.

<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Science as a Human Endeavour ● Earth Science ● Biological Science ● Chemical Science ● Physical Science <p>Technology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Design & Technology ● Digital Technologies 	<p>This is through the focus of the integrated unit of work using an inquiry approach developed under the St George Preca Primary School Conceptual Framework.</p>
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 George Preca Primary School policies for each of the learning areas
- St George Preca 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.

Evaluation

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