

St Leo the Great Curriculum Plan



St Leo the Great 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).

Curriculum and learning policy

Vision

As a most important part of our Parish, St Leo the Great Primary School provides a welcoming, safe and enriching learning environment that promotes success for all.

Our staff presents and gives witness to the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church, so that our students may come to know, worship and love God, and to respect and love their neighbour.

Our motto 'Unity is Strength' inspires our children, parents and staff to cooperate in all we do.

Mission

St Leo The Great Primary School aims to deliver quality Catholic Education to the children of our Parish.

Our vocation is teaching and learning. We focus on spiritual, intellectual, physical, social and emotional growth.

Our curriculum programs will be:

- Enlightened by the teachings and values of the Catholic Faith
- Based on Government, CECV and CEM policies *
- Delivered in a safe, welcoming and cooperative learning environment
- Enriched by modern technology
- Underpinned by Pastoral Care

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 Leo the Great 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

Hence, at St. Leo's we ensure that our teaching and learning approaches reflect 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 in the concept of lifelong learning and the notion that learning should be a rewarding and challenging experience for everyone.

Through our teaching we equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding about the world and how it works and to operate effectively in that world.

St. Leo's is a community of learners – students, teachers and parents. We are a community with a shared understanding that successful learning is a shared responsibility that requires active participation and commitment.

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 differentiation of tasks to allow all learners to 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 informs 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.
- intervention 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 Leo the Great.

At St Leo the Great, 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 Leo the Great will implement the curriculum by:

- A Learning & Teaching Leader is appointed to ensure the overall implementation of a developmentally appropriate curriculum and to establish planning protocols.
- Teachers plan in teams allowing for greater expertise and knowledge as well as data driven dialogue.
- Standards from The Victorian Curriculum underpin curriculum planning and implementation.
- The Learning & Teaching Leader ensures that P.D. is ongoing and specifically targeted to improving teaching practice in line with the school's goals and priorities (School Improvement Plan).
- Professional Learning Team meetings are weekly alternating between Literacy and Numeracy enabling opportunities for professional dialogue, professional reading, analysis of data to inform teaching and the selection of appropriate and meaningful activities.
- The teachers maintain a weekly program which outlines time allocations for each of the learning areas as well as activities, Learning Intentions and Success Criteria.
- Assessment and evaluation is ongoing 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.
- Curriculum is reviewed weekly at planning and at designated staff meetings and planning days.

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 Leo the Great will develop strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies.

St Leo the Great 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 Leo the Great, 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 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 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. This is through the focus of the integrated unit of work using an inquiry approach developed under the St Leo the Great 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 Leo the Great policies for each of the learning areas
- St Leo the Great 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.