

Ave Maria College 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

We strive to educate strong women of Truth and Love.

Mission

Ave Maria College has developed a shared vision for teaching and learning for synergy of purpose and practice. Our Learning is:

- the building of our knowledge, the development of our skill, applied to our world.
- magnified in a vibrant learning environment where we share our learning and strive to grow our capacity and achievements individually and collectively.

Purpose

Our College will:

1. Strive to ensure student needs, perspectives and interests are reflected in the learning program.
2. Create a learning environment which promotes critical and creative thinking, academic resilience, independence, and self-motivation.
3. Create a learning environment which is supportive and productive.
4. Provide opportunities for students to experience personal success as learners.
5. Have high expectations of students and support their pursuit of academic excellence.
6. Pursue and share best teaching practices across the organisation.
7. Acknowledge students who demonstrate the Learner Attributes.

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 Ave Maria College 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 Ave Maria College we will:

- Establish and maintain the Ave Charter for Education, articulating our definition of learning and based on contemporary research.
- outline the behavioral attributes for successful learning and a shared view of effective teaching practices.

Scope

Our school curriculum defines what it is that all students have the opportunity to learn as a result of their schooling at Ave Maria College.

At Ave Maria College, 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

Ave Maria College will implement the curriculum by:

1. requiring courses of study be documented in accordance with the protocols of the College, or other authorities, and reviewed annually.
2. Institutionalising the use of informal and formal, diagnostic, formative and summative assessment strategies to assess student learning.
3. Requiring teaching to be responsive to student learning needs and incorporate student voice.
4. Requiring teachers to use digital technologies and Ave Learning to enhance student engagement and achievement.
5. Acknowledging achievement, challenge underperformance and highlight areas for improvement.
6. Promoting effective and positive collaboration between teachers and students
7. Requiring teachers to implement practices that require student reflection and teacher self-reflection.

8. Requiring budget holders to prepare and submit budgets which support the College’s strategic priorities.
9. Provide appropriate resources within the parameters of the Annual Budget.

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, Ave Maria College will develop strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies.

Ave Maria College 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 Ave Maria College, 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) Year 7: 3.6 hours per week Year 8: 3.6 hours per week Year 9: 3.1 hours per week Year 10: 3.1 hours per week

Learning Areas	Recommended Time Allocated
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) Year 7: 4.1 hours per week Year 8: 3.6 hours per week Year 9: 3.1 hours per week Year 10: 3.1 hours per week
Religious Education	2.5 hours weekly Year 7: 2 hours per week Year 8: 2.6 hours per week Year 9: 2.6 hours per week Year 10: 2.6 hours per week
Health & Physical Education	2.5 hours weekly Year 7: 2.6 hours per week Year 8: 2.6 hours per week Year 9: 2.6 hours per week Year 10: 3.1 hours per week
Arts	1 hour weekly Year 7: 3.1 hours per week Year 8: 3.6 hours per week Year 9: 2.6 hours per week (elective) Year 10: 3.1 hours per week (elective)
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 Ave Maria College 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:

- Ave Maria College policies for each of the learning areas
- Ave Maria College 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.

School Policies/References

- Ave Maria College Charter for Education (2021)
- Assessment and Reporting Policy (2021)
- Assessment and Reporting Procedures (2021)
- Learning Procedures (2021)
- Academic Intervention Protocol
- Academic Roles and Responsibilities protocol
- Ave Learning Lesson Plan Guide for Staff
- CECV 2021 [Reporting Student Progress and Achievement: 2021 Revised Guidelines for Victorian Catholic Schools](#)
- VCAA 2018 [VCE VET Program Guide 2018](#)