

St Simon the Apostle Primary Curriculum Plan



St Simon the Apostle 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 Simon the Apostle our school vision underpins all that we do in our school community. Our vision reflects the shared ideals that we strive for in educating children in our Parish Primary School. Jesus is the Heart of a Christian Community.

The school aims to provide an environment where all members feel happy, secure and part of a loving, caring community.

Positive attitudes towards learning are encouraged through an inquiry-based curriculum which fosters the development of faith, gospel values and the attainment of skills and knowledge which equip children for a lifetime of learning.

Mission

“Jesus is the Heart of the Christian Community”

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.

St Simon the Apostle, 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. Simon the Apostle:

- The implementation of the Religious Education Framework supports the full flourishing of all learners as spiritual and religious, physical and cognitive, social and emotional beings through Religious Education.
- Our aim is to improve student learning through the implementation of the Victorian Curriculum across all Learning Areas and Capabilities, in all year levels.
- The implementation of the Victorian Curriculum across the school will provide all students with a sequential curriculum framework that guides their learning, as well providing measures of learning achievement that allow students, teachers and parents the opportunity to assess student performance against standardised learning outcomes.

Scope

Our school curriculum defines what it is that all students have the opportunity to learn as a result of their schooling at St. Simon the Apostle.

At St. Simon the Apostle, 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. Simon the Apostle will implement the curriculum by:

- The School Leadership Team will have an active role overseeing curriculum direction across the school.
- Professional development opportunities are provided, as well as personal professional development plans being developed that cater for the Victorian Curriculum needs of each staff member.
- The community is kept well informed of the curriculum, with parent evenings to explain the Curriculum, newsletter, and updates of school progress being made available.

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

St. Simon the Apostle 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. Simon the Apostle, 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 	10 hours of explicit teaching
Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number & Algebra • Measurement • Geometry • Statistics & Probability 	5 hours of explicit teaching
Religious Education	2 hours and 30 minutes weekly
Health & Physical Education	1 hour weekly
Arts	1 hour and 20mins weekly
Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civics & Citizenship • Economics • Geography • History 	5 hours and 10 minutes weekly

<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>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> <p>This is through the focus of the integrated unit of work using an inquiry approach developed under the St. Simon the Apostle 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. Simon the Apostle policies for each of the learning areas
- St. Simon the Apostle 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

Assessment and Reporting Policy

English Policy

Mathematics Policy

St. Simon the Apostle Maths I can Statements & Big Ideas

Inquiry Learning Policy

Yearly Curriculum Reporting Expectations F to 6