

# CURRICULUM POLICY

## PURPOSE

At Tecoma Primary School we use the Victorian Curriculum to develop and provide education programs that are meaningful for students. Our 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum presents students with the opportunity to develop deep understandings on a range of concepts throughout their school lives. Our broad curriculum is planned and taught sequentially and allows students to have some ownership in all aspects of their learning. It is designed to develop thinking and social skills, foster engagement with the wider community and include use of a wide variety of technology to assist in learning. We access and select a wide range of suitable educational resources to support the curriculum taught, set homework that enhances classroom learning and undertake a range of student assessment and reporting activities to support student learning.

## OBJECTIVES

To implement a dynamic curriculum program that:

- Is compliant with DET's policies and based on the Victorian Curriculum <http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/>
- Is engaging and relevant and enables students to develop deep levels of knowledge, processes and skills for life-long learning
- Is differentiated in approaches to teaching that cater for the needs of students with a range of interests, abilities, skills, and motivation
- Provides opportunities for students to think, reflect and become independent, resourceful and adaptable learners
- Enables students to interact with other students and the wider community.

## POLICY

### GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Victorian Curriculum Foundation (Prep) - 10 (F - 10) sets out what every student should learn during their first eleven years of schooling. The curriculum is the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for life-long learning, social development and active and informed citizenship.

The Victorian Curriculum F-10 incorporates the Australian Curriculum and reflects Victorian priorities and standards.

The design of the Victorian Curriculum F-10 is set out below:

Learning areas	Capabilities
<b>The Arts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dance</li> <li>• Drama</li> <li>• Media Arts</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Visual Arts</li> <li>• Visual Communication Design</li> </ul>	<b>Critical and Creative Thinking</b>
	<b>Ethical</b>
	<b>Intercultural</b>
<b>English</b>	<b>Personal and Social</b>
<b>Health and Physical Education</b>	

<p><b>The Humanities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civics and Citizenship</li> <li>• Economics and Business</li> <li>• Geography</li> <li>• History</li> </ul> <p><b>Languages</b></p> <p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p><b>Science</b></p> <p><b>Technologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and Technologies</li> <li>• Digital Technologies</li> </ul>	
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- Cross Curricular Learning in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia and Sustainability spans across all curriculum areas.

See <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/> for more detailed information about the Victorian Curriculum.

- The school will ensure that it has a detailed budget to support curriculum programs. Budget requests will be formulated by program leaders in October before the next school year. These will be compiled by the Principal and discussed in the Finance Sub-Committee Meeting. Indicative Budgets must be approved by School Council prior to the school year. Program Leaders are strongly encouraged to expend curriculum budgets in first and second terms of the school year.
- Each term, Year level teams will produce a curriculum planning document detailing the learning focuses of the term. This will include references to The Victorian Curriculum Standards.
- A range of current DET teaching and instructional models will be referred to in curriculum planning documents. This will include such resources as:
  - Practice Principles for Excellence in Teaching and Learning  
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/practice/improve/Pages/principlesexcellence.aspx>
  - Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO)  
<https://edugate.eduweb.vic.gov.au/edrms/project/fiso/SitePages/Home.aspx>
  - The Pedagogical Model  
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/practice/improve/Pages/pedagogical-model.aspx#link68>
  - High Impact Teaching Strategies (HITS)  
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/documents/school/teachers/support/highimpactteachstrat.pdf>
  - The Literacy Portal  
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/Pages/literacyportal.aspx>
  - Literacy Teaching Toolkit  
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/literacy/Pages/default.aspx>

- Numeracy Portal  
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/maths/Pages/numeracyportal.aspx>
  - Victorian Early Years Learning & Development Framework: Birth to 8 Years (Victorian Framework) <http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/earlyyears/index.html>
- The teaching of literacy and numeracy will be an integral component in all curriculum planning and delivery.
  - The school will have a range of specialist programs to deliver various curriculum programs such as Digital Technologies, Physical Education, Japanese, Science and Visual Arts (Art) /Performing Arts (Music). These will be offered depending on school/DET priorities; access to qualified teaching staff; and timetable provisions.
  - The school will teach a concept based Inquiry curriculum. The whole school will focus on the same concept each term. The curriculum is progressive and different focuses are studied in each level team.
  - The Inquiry Learning Program will encompass learning in all the domains in the Victorian Curriculum over the school year. A range of thinking curriculum tools such as 'Habits of Mind', 'De Bono's Thinking Hats', 'Bloom's Taxonomy' and 'Gardner's Multiple Intelligences' will compliment this curriculum.
  - A range of DET programs will support curriculum delivery in the school. These include English as an Additional Language (EAL), Multicultural Education, the Language Support Program, Health Education, \_Koorie/WANNIK  
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/koorie.aspx>  
 Gifted Education, Drug Education, and the Program for Students with Disabilities.  
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/curriculum/Pages/disabilities.aspx>
  - A range of teaching resources will be accessed when developing curriculum programs. The school will ensure that teaching and learning resources balance the need to provide challenging and engaging learning programs for students with the use of materials that do not offend students and the wider community due to their obscene, highly offensive or overly controversial nature. Teaching and learning resources include any spoken, written or visual text or activity used or conducted by schools such as text books, novels, films, plays, radio programs, multimedia, digital learning resources including video, audio, text, animations and images, lectures, speeches and performances.  
 Please see:  
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/Pages/default.aspx>  
 for more information.
  - A comprehensive assessment schedule will be devised and implemented to support assessment of student learning (See Tecoma Primary School's Assessment Schedule).
  - The school will offer excursions and/or incursions to compliment the curriculum. Generally two excursions and two incursions will be organised per year. Other experiences, such as camps, sporting programs and leadership courses will also be offered.
  - The school will engage with affiliations to assist in curriculum planning and delivery.
  - Special school events and days will be celebrated at the school to enhance curriculum programs. For example, Science Week, Grandparent's Day during Education Week, KidsMatter Day, Book Week, Literacy & Numeracy Week, Japanese Day.

Special provisions for particular curriculum areas are detailed below:

## English

- English learning should encompass the modes of Reading and Viewing, Writing and Speaking and Listening as outlined in the Victorian Curriculum.
- It is expected that a two-hour literacy block be scheduled each day. This can include integrating literacy teaching across other areas of learning.
- Grade Prep-4 should use teaching strategies outlined in the Early Years Literacy Program.
- The 'Seven Steps to Writing Success', will be used throughout the school to develop student writing skills
- Grade 5-6 should use teaching strategies outlines for students in the Middle Years of Schooling.

See:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/english/Pages/default.aspx>

## Mathematics

- Mathematics teaching should encompass the areas of Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Statistics and Probability as outlined in the Victorian Curriculum.
- It is expected that an hour numeracy block be scheduled each day. This could be integrated across other areas of learning.
- The Key Characteristics of Effective Numeracy Teaching should be used as a guide to plan numeracy teaching

See:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/maths/Pages/default.aspx>

## Health & Physical Education

- In accordance with DET policy, Tecoma Primary School will mandate the following times to Physical Education:
  - Prep - 2 – 45 minutes specialist session each week
  - 3 - 6 - 45 minutes specialist session as well as 1 hour of sport each week.
- The school will be a member of SDSSA each year (Sherbrooke District School Sports Association)
- The school will participate in the SDSSA sport events summer sport, winter sport, athletics, cross-country
- An 8 session, weekly Swimming Program will run yearly for all year levels.
- The Physical Education Program will be supplemented by outside sporting associations who may run clinics in Physical Education sessions to support the development of specific sporting skills.
- The school will have a whole school approach to Health Education, including Life Education. Other health related topics that the school will cover include Healthy Eating, Sexual Education (through Family Life sessions for years 5 & 6 students) - Student Wellbeing, (e.g. KidsMatter, Bounce Back, School Values). For more information see: <http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/health-and-physical-education/introduction/rationale-and-aims>
- In accordance with DET policy the school must provide effective drug education consistent with the national *Principles for School Drug Education* and should deliver 10 hours of drug education per year level, per year. This could be integrated into other learning programs offered by the school.

## Languages

- According to DET policy, schools must provide tuition in languages from Prep to Year 10 by a suitable qualified teacher and report student achievement from Level 4 onwards.
- At Tecoma Primary School all students from Prep – 6 are provided with a report for Japanese, based on the Standards in Languages.
- At Tecoma Primary School our Language is Japanese.

## Digital Technologies

- At Tecoma Primary School it is a priority to include Digital Technologies across the whole school curriculum.
- A Digital Technologies Professional Learning Team provide advice on Digital priorities throughout the school.
- All classroom teachers are expected to integrate Digital Technologies into their learning programs
- See <http://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/technologies/digital-technologies/introduction/rationale-and-aims> for more information

## Science

- At Tecoma Primary School all classroom teachers are timetabled to take weekly Science sessions with their class.
- A designated Science coordinator (from our STEM Science Specialist Trained staff), work closely with each team to plan and implement the science program – based on Primary Connections and linked as closely as is possible to the Inquiry Units being explored by each area of the school.

See:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/teachingresources/discipline/science/Pages/default.aspx>

## The Humanities

- In the Victorian Curriculum F–10, the Humanities includes Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business, Geography and History.
- The Humanities provide a framework for students to examine the complex processes that have shaped the modern world and to investigate responses to different challenges including people's interconnections with the environment.
- In Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business, students explore the systems that shape society, with a specific focus on legal and economic systems. Students learn about Australia's role in global systems, and are encouraged to appreciate democratic principles and to contribute as active, informed and responsible citizens.
- In History and Geography, students explore the processes that have shaped and which continue to shape different societies and cultures, to appreciate the common humanity shared across time and distance, and to evaluate the ways in which humans have faced and continue to face different challenges.
- At Tecoma Primary School the humanities are explored through each terms' Inquiry Units.

## **The Arts**

Through the Visual Arts (Art) and Performing Arts (Music) programs which take place at Tecoma Primary School, students will:

- develop their intellectual, creative and expressive potential
  - develop skills, techniques and a knowledge to foster personal expression
  - create, perform respond and present art works
  - develop critical skills and an understanding of aesthetics
  - develop an understanding of how the Arts evolve within social, cultural and historical contexts
  - be provided with opportunities to experiment with various media, applications, equipment and technologies.
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- At Tecoma Primary School students will be provided with comprehensive learning experiences to develop skills, understandings, confidence, appreciation and enjoyment in the Arts.
  - All students at Tecoma Primary School will experience sequential Visual and Performing Art and Music programs based upon the outcomes contained within the Victorian Curriculum and outlined in the school's Art and Music Scope and Sequence Plans.
  - Students will be provided with enrichment opportunities through incursions, excursions, school productions, performances, festivals and classroom programs.
  - The school will endeavour to employ specialist visual art and performing arts teachers where possible.
  - Students will be offered the opportunity to participate in extension activities such as Choir, Orchestra, Ensembles and Dance Groups.
  - The school will endeavour to provide the opportunity for students to attend private instrumental music lessons during school hours.
  - The program will incorporate the biannual whole school production and yearly performing arts activities.

### **ACHIEVEMENT MEASURES**

- Victorian Curriculum student achievement data
- Student, staff and parent opinion surveys
- NAPLAN
- Specialist Timetable
- Term Level Planners
- Student's progress will be reported on at the end of Semester 1 and Semester 2 academic reports
- Weekly Planning Documentation

### **REVIEW CYCLE**

This policy was last updated on **25<sup>th</sup> March, 2019** and is scheduled for review in **April, 2020**.