

NORWOOD SECONDARY COLLEGE CURRICULUM AND STUDENT LEARNING POLICY

RATIONALE

Curriculum comprises all content that is taught within the college and what all students have the opportunity to learn. It covers how time is spread between subjects and is annually reviewed by each faculty. It also influences other activities undertaken by students, how teachers approach their subjects and how facilities and resources are distributed. The curriculum is overseen by the Curriculum Committee and the Principal Class Officers (PCOs). Student learning will be reported against the achievement standards in the curriculum and each faculty will develop and publish a whole-school curriculum plan that documents the teaching and learning program.

Norwood Secondary College offers a broad, inclusive curriculum and strives to enable all students to reach their potential. The curriculum at Years 7-10 is written and executed in accordance with the Victorian Curriculum. There is also an opportunity for students to be a part of the Enrichment Program (EP). Senior students undertake the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE), or the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL). Students may also undertake a Vocational Education and Training (VET) or tertiary placement as part of their course.

Norwood Secondary College is committed to:

- Offering a contemporary and comprehensive curriculum that is challenging, engaging and thorough.
- Delivering a variety of teaching and learning approaches that ensure that the curriculum is accessible to all students.
- Assessing students' work and providing them with meaningful and timely feedback.
- Allowing students to learn in an organised and differentiated way.
- Teaching curriculum in regards to the learning areas: English, Mathematics, Sciences, The Humanities, The Arts, Languages, Health and Physical Education, Technologies and STEM.
- Incorporating the general capabilities across the learning areas: Ethical, Intercultural, Personal and Social, and Critical and Creative Thinking.

Norwood Secondary College believes that:

- Students learn in a variety of ways, yet all can succeed and should therefore be held to high expectations.
- Students who demonstrate effort within the curriculum both individually and as part of a team, should be valued and rewarded.
- The delivery of the curriculum should be relevant and students should be prepared to learn content of a high standard in each and every one of their classes, to foster a love of lifelong learning.
- The curriculum needs to be documented within the school, so the content and timelines are clear for all teachers, students and parents.
- A mentoring program is critical so that students have a consistent advisory figure and that their connectedness to school and academic outcomes will increase.

AIMS

- Students should expect a consistent teaching and learning framework (MAPS) across all learning areas.
- There will be a broad offering of VCE units and selected VET units to meet the requirements of students and to achieve a balanced curriculum.
- The Victorian Curriculum will be implemented in all subjects.

- Professional development will be encouraged for all staff to improve their knowledge of curriculum, teaching and learning.
- A differentiated curriculum will be provided to cater for the needs of all students.
- Literacy support will be available and specific programs will be implemented for identified students.
- The improvement of all students' literacy skills and numeracy will be a priority in the curriculum across all learning areas and additional support will be provided for identified students.

IMPLEMENTATION:

- All staff will conduct their classes using the College's MAPS framework.
- All learning areas will develop and publish their curriculum detailing how they implement the Victorian Curriculum and aligned to the Norwood MAPS framework.
- The College will provide a variety of programs that will address the specific requirements of students in relation to special learning needs, disability, mental health and different cultures.
- The Heads of Year Level will produce a handbook that outlines the curriculum of each subject offered. This will be done in conjunction with the Key Learning Area (KLA) Leaders and Principal's Advisory Committee (PAC). Parent Information Evenings will be organised as required.
- The Victorian Curriculum will be implemented across all applicable learning areas and will be reviewed to ensure a consistently high standard and curriculum relevance.
- The College will offer a select entry Enrichment Program for students who are high achieving from Years 7 to 9.
- The College will offer a select entry VCAL class at Year 11 and Year 12, for students who require a more practical approach to learning and who are interested in a vocational pathway.
- Students will have access to a 1:1 computer program from Years 7-9 and a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program from Years 10-12 that will enhance teaching and learning.
- All staff will meet the requirements in terms of professional development as specified by the Department of Education and Training (DEET) to heighten curriculum knowledge and teaching practice.
- A focus on literacy will be the responsibility of all staff, with the intention of improving student outcomes across the College.
- Every student will be involved in a mentor program, where they will be supported by their mentor/a mentor teacher. This mentor will keep track of their students' academic progress and wellbeing and liaise with the Heads of Year Levels and Coordinators as necessary. The Heads of Year levels and Coordinators will track student progress and be supported by the mentor teachers.
- An active Curriculum Committee will make recommendations to PAC to ensure a high quality, broad and relevant curriculum is being taught across all learning areas. The Curriculum Committee is also the body to recommend how time is allocated to each subject.
- PAC will consider students' preferences in regards to subject selection and make decisions about what subjects will run. This body will meet the needs of the students, with regard to the College's resources.

DATE RATIFIED BY COLLEGE COUNCIL: October 2019

REVIEW DATE: October 2022