

Specimen Hill Primary School

Curriculum Framework Policy



Rationale:

The core purpose of Specimen Hill Primary school is to provide an inclusive, rigorous learning environment that challenges and engages all of our students to grow into lifelong learners. The school seeks to develop motivated, creative and independent learners who demonstrate strong social values and whose leadership, resilience and self-esteem is evident when interacting with the community.

Aim:

Curriculum covers all the teaching and learning arrangements the school makes for students' development and learning. It includes the curriculum content, student activities, teaching approaches, the way in which teachers and classes are organised and decisions on the need for and the use of facilities and resources.

Implementation:

- Specimen Hill Primary encourages its students to strive for excellence in all of their endeavours. To achieve this, the school provides sequential teaching and learning programs that deliver a comprehensive, broadly based and culturally inclusive curricula.
- The school provides a comprehensive curriculum with a strong focus on literacy and numeracy with time dedicated daily to each of these core learning areas. In addition to the comprehensive classroom programs offered in Literacy and Numeracy, an Integrated Studies program addresses the domains of Science, Humanities/History, Design and Technology, Civics and Citizenship and Health. These domains are integrated into the Literacy and Numeracy program to ensure sufficient time is allocated to address the content of these areas. Also, across the school there is an hour of weekly rotations working towards achieving student achievement outcomes.
- Specialist teachers provide instruction in Physical Education, Languages (Indonesian in Prep to Year 4 and Chinese in Years 5-6) and Visual Arts. Interdisciplinary, personal and social learning are addressed within these domains and supported by a range of camps and excursion initiatives.
- The school is an active participant in district sport competitions as well as providing students with opportunities to participate in a circus and instrumental guitar program.
- A Space Travelers extension program is offered to both junior and senior students throughout the year.
- An Oral Language Program is provided to those students entering Prep with poor skills in this area on a weekly basis.

- Reading Recovery is offered to Year 1 students deemed at risk, the number being determined by available resources.
- All teaching and learning programs are underpinned by the Specimen Hill Wellbeing program in recognition of the core belief of the school that students require wellbeing issues to be addressed to ensure that they can fully participate in all aspects of school life.

Specimen Hill will meet the minimum standard with:

- A time allocation per each of the eight learning areas (Appendix 1)
- A explanation of how curriculum and teaching practice will be reviewed (statement is at 3.4 of this policy)
- An outline of how the school will deliver its curriculum is found in the Specimen Hill Primary School's English, Mathematics and Integrated Studies Scope and Sequence documents and LOTE, Physical Education and Art policies.
- A whole school curriculum (Appendix 1).
- A documented strategy to improve student learning outcomes (found within the School Strategic Plan)

1. CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

- Specimen Hill will recognise and respond to diverse student needs when developing its curriculum programs and plans. All students working above or below 6 months of expected level will have a written Individual Learning Plan along with students on the PSD program.
- Specimen Hill will comply with all DET guidelines about the length of student instruction time required in Victorian schools.
- There will be a strong focus across the school on the teaching of Literacy and Numeracy skills commencing in Prep and continuing to Year 6 to enhance effective learning for the 21st century.
- The Department of Education and Training places a high priority on the teaching of Physical and Sport Education, Languages and EAL. Our school also places a high priority on the teaching of these learning areas.
- Preparing young people for the transition from Primary school into Secondary school will be a key focus in Year 6.
- Teaching and learning programs will be resourced through Program Budgets.

2. PROGRAM

Program Development

- Specimen Hill will provide a variety of programs that will address the specific needs of students in relation to gender, special learning needs, disabilities and impairments, giftedness and students from language backgrounds other than English.
- The school will identify and cater for the different needs of particular cohorts of students when developing its curriculum plan.
- In developing its curriculum plan the school will provide a broad range of educational pathways to ensure improved student outcomes.
- The Victorian Curriculum will be used as a framework for curriculum development and assessment from Foundation to Year 6 in accordance with DET policy and Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority guidelines.
- The school when developing its Curriculum Plan will provide at least 25 hours student instruction per week.

Program Implementation

- Teaching and learning teams will plan and implement the teaching of English, Mathematics, and Integrated Studies with the use of ICT across the school. These teams will constantly monitor and review these programs to improve the learning outcomes for all students.
- The DET requirements related to the teaching of Languages, Physical and Sports Education, and New Arrivals Program / English as an Additional Language (EAL) will continue to be implemented
- To facilitate the implementation of teaching and learning across the school, assessment schedules and the documentation of the Teaching and Learning Program across the school will be an ongoing priority that will be under constant review.
- The Victorian Curriculum priorities of Sustainability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures and Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia will be integrated across the teaching and learning programs of the school.
- The use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) will be integrated across the curriculum to support the improvement of teaching and learning outcomes and adheres to DET's School Policy & Advisory Guide '[Using Digital Technologies to Support Learning and Teaching](#)' and the school's own endorsed policy.
- Curriculum leaders will be required to review their policy statement and prepare a comprehensive annual program budget and submit these to School Council.

Student Wellbeing and Learning

Specimen Hill will embed student wellbeing in all learning experiences by aligning student welfare and curriculum policies and creating an educational environment and curriculum that is inclusive and meaningful to all students by;

- providing an integrated and comprehensive curriculum approach that incorporates the personal and social issues of students into their daily learning experiences
- providing a flexible, relevant, inclusive and appropriate curriculum
- accommodating student developmental needs within the Victorian Curriculum

3.3.1 Students with Disabilities

The Department of Education and Training and Specimen Hill is committed to delivering an inclusive education system that ensures all students, including students with disabilities, have access to a quality education that meets their diverse needs.

- Specimen Hill will liaise with DET to provide suitable programs and resources to support the delivery of high quality schooling for students with disabilities.

3.3.2 Koorie Education

Specimen Hill is committed to providing culturally appropriate and inclusive programs to Koorie students though;

- working in partnership with the Koorie community to develop an understanding of Koorie culture and the interpersonal relationship with the Koorie community, for example via Local Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups (LAECG)
- supporting the development of high expectations and individualised learning for Koorie students
- creating an environment that respects, recognises and celebrates cultural identity through practice and curriculum
- implementing initiatives and programs that meet student needs and in partnership with the Koorie community.

Program Evaluation & Review

- Teaching and learning teams across the school will ensure that all teaching and learning programs are in line with the school's scope and sequence documents and that curriculum coverage is maintained across the school and year levels. These teaching and learning teams are currently responsible for core curriculum development and delivery in literacy, numeracy and integrated studies including history, design and technology and ICT.
- Specialist programs from Prep to Year 6 are delivered for Physical Education, Visual Arts and Languages with specialist teachers developing and monitoring these programs.
- The Curriculum Committee will meet regularly (at least twice per term) to track whole school data and identify potential curriculum areas that require focus. Data analysed will include, but is not limited to, NAPLAN.
- Student learning outcomes data will be reported in the Annual Report to the School Community provided to the DET, and also available on the State Register maintained by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority and on the school website.

Professional Development

Specimen Hill Primary school is committed to offering professional development to all teaching staff to drive school improvement believing strongly that to change what teachers do in their classrooms you have to change what teachers know and believe.

Three days of the four pupil free days will be used for whole school professional development sessions. The focus of these days will be determined by the goals and the key improvement strategies set in the Annual Implementation Plan. The Annual Implementation goals and key improvement strategies will be guided by the school's current Strategic Plan and through the examination of key data sets including, but not exclusively, NAPLAN, Attitudes to School, Parent Opinion Survey, Staff Opinion Survey, data gathered from school wide assessment practices and other data collected formally and informally. Vertical teams attending professional learning to drive improvement in teaching and learning is the preferred model along with ensuring that all external professional learning is evidence based.

Professional development sessions will be run on a fortnightly basis to progress the school's work towards achieving the goals of the Annual Implementation Plan. Professional Learning Team meetings will also focus on teaching and learning and the improvement of student outcomes by providing further opportunities for professional learning. Staff meetings will be used as a vehicle for staff professional development when appropriate.

Team Planning is embedded across the school and is also considered to be an opportunity for staff to develop professionally.

As a school, Specimen Hill Primary is committed to provide leadership opportunities and professional development opportunities for staff who are demonstrating that they ready to undertake a leadership position in the school or are currently in the role. The professional learning will be targeted to their individual learning needs.

Performance and Development plans of teaching staff and Educational Support Officers (who work directly with students) will be focused on the implementation of quality instructional practices that is underpinned by professional learning.

Education Support Officers will also be provided with relevant professional development opportunities to enhance their skills so that all students are receiving quality instruction across the school.

The focus of

3. LINKS AND APPENDICES (including processes related to this policy)

Links to DET School Policy & Advisory Guide:

- [Curriculum](#)
- [Using Digital Technologies to Support Learning and Teaching](#)
- [Student Wellbeing and Learning](#)
- [Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Koorie Education](#)

Appendices which are connected with this policy are:

- Appendix 1: Time allocations per learning area Foundation to Year 12
- * Includes the Aus/VELS Interpersonal Development, Personal Learning, Thinking Processes, and Communication domains

Foundation	
Domain	Hours per week
English	10
Mathematics	5
Integrated Studies/Developmental Play/assembly/Wellbeing	6
Languages	1
PE/ PMP	2
Art	1
TOTAL	25

Year 1 – 4	
Domain	Hours per week
English	10
Mathematics	5
Integrated Studies /Wellbeing/Assembly	7
Physical Education	
Languages	1
Art	1
TOTAL	25

Year 5 & 6	
Domain	Hours per week
English	10
Mathematics	5
Integrated Studies /Wellbeing/Assembly	7
Physical Education	1
Languages	1
Art	1
TOTAL	25

4. Review

Date implemented	1 February 2018
Reviewed by	Sharon Malberg
Approved By	School Council
Approval Authority (signature & date)	
Date reviewed	5/5/2019
Responsible for Review	Student Learning Committee
Review date	1 st term 2020
References	