

# MacKillop College



## Policy: Curriculum

### Introduction

The formal curriculum involves the planned learning experiences intended to achieve the educational aims of the College. This involves developing objectives, content and methodology and evaluation. In a Catholic school, curriculum should entail the “critical assimilation of culture.” Curriculum involves everything that happens in a school and is in that sense inextricably linked with Pastoral Care.

### Objectives

The curriculum should be responsive to the needs and expectations of students, parents and social change. It should be comprehensive, contemporary, vibrant, meaningful and achieve the educational aims and objectives of the school. This curriculum is implemented in a climate where effective learning and teaching can take place.

MacKillop College aims to meet the needs of students by adopting the fundamental principles of Victorian Essential Learning Standards in conjunction with the guidelines for R.E. in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

### Principles

- A whole school approach will be adopted to develop the most effective methods of teaching and learning
- Curriculum is designed to achieve the educational aims and objectives of MacKillop College. These educational aims and objectives are reviewed regularly under the guidance of the Principal.
- The formal curriculum is organised as a range of studies in Domains under the leadership of Learning Leaders and Domain Leaders.
- Each Domain is guided by the VELS documents for Years 7 to 10, VCAL guides and the VCAA Study Guides for VCE in determining the curriculum focus, learning outcomes, teaching and learning strategies/activities and assessment strategies most appropriate to the achievement of the educational aims of the school.
- The Religious Education program is guided by the CEO Religious Education Guidelines for Catholic Schools.

### Evaluation

- Regular evaluation of the studies offered and the extent to which the curriculum achieves the aims of the College is under the leadership of the Principal
- The Curriculum will be reviewed formally every five years. An independent education organisation will conduct the review. The Australian Catholic University conducted the most recent review in 1999
- Use of external and internal student test data will be used to evaluate the curriculum and teaching and learning practices on a yearly basis.

## Implementation

### i) Principal commitment

The principal is responsible for:

- Ensuring that the objectives of this policy are integrated into practice
- Creating a climate where effective learning and teaching can take place, maintaining acceptable educational standards and ensuring the curriculum enables the school's educational aims and objectives to be carried out
- Providing a budget adequate to deliver the comprehensive curriculum that meets the educational goals of MacKillop College
- Appointing fully qualified staff who have a commitment to best teaching and learning methodology

### ii) Staff Commitment

All staff will be responsible for:

- Using the teaching and learning methodologies consistent with Domain policies and documentation and other curriculum policies and documentation to deliver a curriculum which meets the educational goals of the College and caters for the individual needs of students
- Participating in the ongoing review and development of the curriculum and use the best teaching methodology to optimise student learning opportunities
- Learning Leaders will coordinate the process of ongoing review and development of courses of study to ensure the courses of study reflect the educational aims and objectives of the school and challenge staff to develop and maintain high standards of teaching
- The Learning Leaders initiate and guide the process of best teaching and learning practice within and across all Domain areas
- Domain Leaders ensure administration and documentation of our courses of study are complete and current
- The Deputy Principals (Learning & Teaching) coordinate and document the overall process of curriculum development and review.

## Review Date

*This Policy will be reviewed in*            January 2009

Signature

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Rory Kennedy  
(Principal)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_