



St Thomas the Apostle School Learning and Teaching Policy (To be reviewed 2020)

Vision

At St Thomas the Apostle School our vision is to create a learning environment where our students gain the skills required for lifelong learning and social development allowing them to be informed global citizens. Our learning embraces difference and individuality upon which the foundations of our Catholic tradition are built.

Respecting the sacred dignity of the individual, we encourage our learners to seek truth and have an openness to new possibilities in living the gospel. Our students are at the centre of all learning experiences where they are actively engaged in purposeful and relevant learning. Through our commitment to growth, we support the full flourishing of every student. We aim to educate and develop the whole child – emotionally, academically, physically, socially and spiritually.

Principles

Through our common vision, values, objectives and curriculum processes we aspire to continually work to improve student outcomes. We provide learning and teaching that is enriched by the values, beliefs, perspectives and experiences of each member of the school community and where they engage actively with the Catholic understanding of the human person.

With the student at the centre of all learning, we provide an inclusive and safe environment built on authentic relationships and partnerships that support, extend and challenge our learners.

Underpinned by the Catholic Education Melbourne Horizons of Hope framework, the Victorian Curriculum provides our students with learning experiences that are purposeful and relevant and which connect to self, family, community and the world.

Deep Learning

Our teaching is based on a contemporary understanding to employ pedagogies which enable the students to make ongoing personal transformation. Students are provided with opportunities to critically engage in a dialogue with tradition and the world, making sense of and taking control of their lives. They are supported in their searching, questioning, inquiring, imagining and reimagining to create meaning and be active in leading their own learning.

Powerful Teaching

Our teaching is relevant, purposeful and promotes strong engagement. We strive to establish and build rapport with students, empowering them to have a voice in the learning process and to take risks in a stimulating and secure environment.

The school has high expectations of students. Students will work within their Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) to maximise growth and progression.

Through our consistent expectations, processes of school organisation and curriculum planning, we create relevant learning partnerships between the school, student, home, parish and the wider community.

Teachers provide an environment where learners can be engaged collaboratively through teamwork and working interdependently.

Implementation

It is our intention that our students will engage in progress towards greater knowledge that will lead to deeper understandings and high levels of skill. We consider the partnership between school, family and parish as fundamental to our commitment to providing students with learning opportunities that are rigorous and relevant. This is achieved through all involved fulfilling their responsibilities.

School

The school will:

- provide a stimulating and secure learning environment
- provide learning opportunities that are rigorous and relevant
- engage in consistent approaches and planning within year levels
- undertake ongoing evaluation of curriculum
- expect high expectations of student academic outcomes
- use data to inform teaching and to track the teaching and learner progress

- strategically deploy resources
- provide clear links between assessment and reporting to assist learning
- provide assessment that is timely and rigorous, aligned to the curriculum and deeply embedded in the learning and teaching cycle
- encourage a sense of ownership, confidence and self-efficacy as a learner
- respond to the learning progress/continuum of all students
- maintain a thorough understanding of curriculum and pedagogical approaches
- engage in ongoing reflective practice and professional learning
- foster learning allows time to stop, reflect and take action that matters
- evaluate curriculum effectiveness.

Students

The students will:

- be accountable for their own learning
- develop personal and learning goals
- engage with others in their learning (students, home, community, world)
- question what they need to know and understand to progress in their learning
- connect with the ideas of others within the school and the wider community
- identify learning strengths
- explore opportunities, questions and issues
- reflect on learning to deepen understanding
- be respectful to self and others in their learning
- be respectful towards others in communication
- respect the partnership with teachers.

Parents

The parents will:

- support their child in all aspects of learning and wellbeing
- provide relevant communication with the school.