

Penola Catholic College Curriculum Plan



Penola Catholic College is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS), where formation and education are based on the principles of Catholic doctrine, and where the teachers are outstanding in true doctrine and uprightness of life.

Curriculum and learning policy

Vision



Mission

Penola Catholic College is committed to providing educational opportunities that actively welcome, engage, inspire and challenge all students to learn in a safe and enlivening Catholic environment.

We provide students with real life learning opportunities and experiences that will prepare them for the “business of living”.

Purpose

Penola Catholic College is a community of students, parents and staff guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ and inspired by the example of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop. Enlightened by the Gospel values of Faith, Love, Hope and Compassion, we strive to provide a holistic education which meets the needs and develops the gifts of each student. As a community we recognise that this is best achieved in a welcoming environment with a commitment to justice, service and collaboration.

The Victorian Curriculum is the Foundation to Year 10 curriculum for Victorian government and Catholic schools for implementation from 2017. The Victorian Curriculum reflects Victorian priorities and standards for F–10 and incorporates the Australian Curriculum. It defines what it is that all students have the opportunity to learn as a result of their schooling, set out as a series of learning progressions. See <https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/foundation-10/Pages/default.aspx>.

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 recognises that increasingly, in a world where knowledge itself is constantly growing and evolving, students need to develop, in addition to discrete discipline knowledge and understanding, a set of skills, behaviours and dispositions, or general capabilities, that apply across discipline content and equip them to be lifelong learners able to operate with confidence in a complex, information-rich, globalised world.

The Penola Catholic College Curriculum Plan has been developed in light of the directions for Catholic education and principles of curriculum from the *Horizons of Hope* education framework: Catholic schools provide an excellent holistic education centred on the students and engaging them in authentic, purposeful learning; and incorporating the philosophy of the Victorian Curriculum F–10 and the Religious Education Curriculum Framework.

The curriculum is a statement of the purpose of schooling and defines what it is that all students have the opportunity to learn as a result of their schooling.

Principles

At Penola Catholic College:

- The learning environment is supportive and productive
- The learning environment promotes independence, interdependence and self motivation and encourages students to actively set goals for their learning
- The individual cultural backgrounds, learning styles, gifts and interest of each student impacts on their learning. Therefore, students' needs, backgrounds, perspectives and interests are reflected in the learning program
- Students are challenged and supported to develop deep levels of thinking and application
- Assessment practices are an integral part of teaching and learning. Assessment is an ongoing process that should be positive, providing feedback and encouragement
- Learning connects strongly with communities and practice beyond the classroom

Scope

Our school curriculum defines what it is that all students have the opportunity to learn as a result of their schooling at Penola Catholic College.

At Penola Catholic College, curriculum is enriched by the values, beliefs, perspectives and experiences of each member of the learning community when they engage actively with Catholic understandings of the human person. This orientation towards the person means that the process of curriculum design is shared with students, creating within them a sense of ownership and self-efficacy as learners. Our learning community fosters the conditions for students to have a voice in the design process, allowing them to make decisions about what they need to know and when.

Implementation

Penola Catholic College will implement the curriculum by offering a rich and engaging curriculum through a large range of subject areas.

We take pride in ensuring our courses of study reflect current educational thinking and that they are aligned with the Victorian Curriculum F-10, Catholic Education and Federal Government initiatives and requirements.

Our teaching program is supported by the College Pastoral and Co-Curricular programs as well as a great variety of curriculum based excursions and in-school activities.

Penola Catholic College is committed to educating the whole person so that each student can strive to achieve their potential. We strive to provide meaningful pathways for students to enrich their God-given gifts and talents. We offer a broad and comprehensive curriculum. The subjects on offer include internal subjects as well as VCE, Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) to cater for the diversity of pathways for our student population.

Learning at Penola Catholic College offers all students a contemporary education based on Real Life Learning. The aims of the curriculum are supported by caring and experienced staff who strive to develop students' gifts, encourage the pursuit of excellence and provide a positive learning environment. The curriculum is supported by teachers using evidence-based practices in their learning with a strong focus on improvement and growth, regardless of a student's starting point.

Year 7 and 8 students are located on the Glenroy campus. The curriculum at these levels offers both breadth and depth across a broad range of core subjects. Digital Technologies (IT) is integrated across the curriculum as well as being offered as a distinct Learning Area. At Year 7, the core curriculum also includes two Semester based units of Languages chosen from French, Japanese and Italian. In Year 8, students select one language which continues into Year 9. Penola Catholic College also offers students the opportunity to study Content and Integrated Language Learning (CLIL) in all languages across different year levels.

A feature of the Glenroy Campus is its commitment to addressing issues associated with middle schooling and the transition from primary to secondary school education. Matters such as building a strong sense of belonging, providing a safe and positive learning environment and teaching students how to build and sustain better relationships are emphasised.

At Years 7 and 8, students engage in a Project Based Learning (PBL) program focusing on STEAM, an international focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. The needs of gifted students are addressed through a rich and varied curriculum and through differentiation. Students undertake PAT Literacy and Numeracy tests at Years 7 & 8 so that teachers can use data to personalise learning for students. They also participate in the Renaissance Reading program.

At Years 9 and 10, students begin to design their own program within a structured subject selection process. At Year 9, students undertake year-long studies in the core subjects and choose at least one unit from electives within Science, Humanities, Arts, Technologies and Health. Students continue their studies in the language chosen at Year 8. Alternatively, students may choose to add a language and study two languages into Year 10 and VCE. In Year 10, students who might have a vocational Pathway are offered the opportunity to begin Foundation VCAL (Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning), or to complete a Certificate I in Employment Pathways as two of their elective choices. This second option leaves the way open for completion of either VCE or VCAL in Years 11 and 12. Through the Accelerated Studies Program, capable students are able to apply to undertake VCE Units 1 and 2 in Year 10; Units 3 and 4 in Year 11; and gifted Year 12 students have the opportunity to engage in specified university studies.

The Work Experience Program is a significant activity for Year 10 students. Over a period of one week, students engage in the world of work undertaking employment positions that they seek out and organise.

In Years 11 and 12, VET, VCAL and over 50 VCE studies, are offered to students in preparation for employment or tertiary education after Year 12. In addition, students have the option of undertaking studies under the Vocational Education in Schools (VETiS) program as part of their VCE here at Penola. The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) program is also available to those students who have a vocational pathway in mind as opposed to a University pathway.

The curriculum is designed and delivered from whole-school to level planning to individual teacher plans. These are created in a collaborative and supported environment. This ensures that a guaranteed and viable curriculum is driving student learning and lifting student outcomes.

Curriculum content

The school implements the Victorian Curriculum in order to provide students with a comprehensive and cumulative curriculum from Foundation to Year 10.

The school’s teaching and learning program is the school-based plan for delivering this common set of knowledge and skills in ways that best utilise local resources, expertise and contexts. Information technology is an integral part of our curriculum as a basic tool for learning. Supported by our governing body, Penola Catholic College will develop strong processes for monitoring student progress and the application of appropriate explicit teaching and intervention strategies.

Penola Catholic College will also take inspiration from the *Horizons of Hope* education framework. This framework supports Catholic school communities to engage in dialogue about the distinctive nature of learning and teaching, leading learning and enhancing Catholic identity in our schools. The framework is a living document that has been added to over the years with examples of practice from schools, as well as additional strategy statements in the areas of Leadership, Wellbeing, Diversity and Religious Education.

Religious Education has a central place in the curriculum at Penola Catholic College, as it reflects our unique character of Catholic identity and focus as a Catholic school. The primary source for developing our Religious Education program is the Religious Education Curriculum Framework, developed by our governing body MACS.

Whole-school curriculum plan and time allocation

The following provides an outline of the learning areas and weekly time allocation across 7-10. Multiple learning areas are often part of a unit and not always taught as separate subject areas. This is ensured through time allocations which are in line with recommendations of the educational authorities.

Learning Areas	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
English				
• Reading & Viewing				
• Speaking & Listening	3.75	3.75	3.33	3.33
• Grammar & Spelling				
• Writing				

Learning Areas	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number & Algebra Measurement Geometry Statistics & Probability 	3.75	3.75	3.33	3.33
Religious Education	2.50	1.67	2.50	2.50
Health & Physical Education	1.67	2.50	3.33	1.67
Arts	2.50	2.50	*1.67	*1.67
Humanities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civics & Citizenship Economics Geography History 	2.50	2.50	*1.67	*1.67
Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science as a Human Endeavour Earth Science Biological Science Chemical Science Physical Science 	2.50	2.50	*1.67	*1.67
Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design & Technology Digital Technologies 	2.50	2.50	*1.67	*1.67
Languages (LOTE)	2.50	2.50	*3.33	*0.00
Pastoral	0.83	0.83	*0.83	*0.83
TOTAL weekly hours	25	25	23.33	18.33

Please note hours at Years 9 and 10 don't add to 25 due to additional electives vs minimum requirements. * are elective minimum hours across the year.

Capabilities

The Victorian Curriculum includes both knowledge and skills. It is expected that the skills and knowledge defined in the capabilities will be developed, practised, deployed and demonstrated by students in and through their learning across the curriculum:

- Critical & Creative Thinking
- Ethical
- Intercultural
- Personal & Social.

The skills and knowledge defined in the capabilities will be developed in student learning across the curriculum areas where it is relevant and authentic to do so.

Curriculum organisation and implementation

The school's planning for curriculum draws on the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) curriculum planning site for age-appropriate content, sequential learning patterns, and interrelated aspects of the content and skills and of the desired learning capabilities. Refer to the Pedagogical Framework.

All content is developed using the following documents:

- Penola Catholic College policies for each of the learning areas
- Penola Catholic College Religious Education Scope and Sequence: Religious Education Curriculum Framework
- Victorian Curriculum F–10
- Statement of Philosophy.

A variety of other resources, including online resources, will be available to support planning.

Evaluation

This Policy will be monitored and reviewed by the staff, in accordance with the School Improvement Plan or as required.

School policies/references

[Penola Catholic College Year 7-12 Curriculum Handbook 2021](#)

[Penola Catholic College VCE/VCAL Handbook 2021](#)

[Senior Programs](#)

[Year 7–12 Subject Offerings](#)