

CURRICULUM PHILOSOPHY

Rationale

“Only those who know how to learn, who can relate to others and the environment and who can make the world part of their own evolving being will thrive in this world” (Michael Fullan).

At Doncaster Secondary College we work together to enable all students to achieve their potential and become confident, effective learners who contribute productively to society. (Doncaster Secondary College Strategic Plan)

Our College motto "working together, learning together" encapsulates the learning culture.

Purpose

Every teacher at Doncaster Secondary College designs learning experiences which develop deep knowledge, understanding, skills and values to equip students to be self-motivated learners who will take their place in the 21st century economy and society.

Preparing our students for life in the 21st century requires a curriculum program that is strong in the following areas:

- ✓ core academic skills based on sound literacy and numeracy, and ICT skills;
- ✓ self-motivated learning and the capacity for leadership and decision making;
- ✓ integrity and responsibility to one's community;
- ✓ health and wellbeing as part of a positive outlook on life;
- ✓ creativity and problem-solving capacity; and
- ✓ intercultural and language capabilities.

From “Victoria as a Learning Community”

Our core values of Respect, Responsibility, Resilience and Teamwork resonate throughout the curriculum.

Guidelines

The curriculum at Doncaster Secondary College is designed to personalize learning for students and to meet their diverse academic, social and emotional needs. Based on our shared belief that all students can learn and develop their unique skills and talents, we will provide opportunities for each student to be challenged and succeed. We recognize that learning is a balance between knowledge acquisition and skill development, therefore we utilise the current curriculum standards and instructional model set by DEECD, to assist in the delivery of a viable teaching and learning program by all staff.

We do this through:

- ✓ maintaining a whole school focus on literacy and numeracy;
- ✓ designing curriculum which balances a strong foundation for learning with increasing levels of student choice;
- ✓ modelling the characteristics that successful learners demonstrate, and being explicit about our criteria for success;
- ✓ explicitly teaching the skills within creative and critical thinking, problem solving, communication and the use of Information technologies;
- ✓ creating a classroom environment which allows for whole class, independent and collaborative learning;
- ✓ setting high expectations for ourselves and our learners;
- ✓ supporting students to develop an awareness of themselves as positive and productive learners;
- ✓ providing programs that build on the strengths, target the weaknesses, and challenge the specific learning needs of our students;
- ✓ ensuring that learning is authentic and relevant to our learners;
- ✓ Demonstrating the integral relationship between assessment and learning;
- ✓ sharing an appreciation of values, culture and beliefs;
- ✓ building partnerships with a range of community groups; and
- ✓ developing the capacity for citizenship.