

PRIMARY SCHOOL HANDBOOK

Throughout the Primary School children are given opportunities to support and develop their God-given gifts whilst being **individually valued and nurtured**. Through a multi-age classroom structure, teachers intentionally focus on meeting the needs of the individual by adapting the curriculum to fit the students **through differentiated learning**.

At Geelong Lutheran College, the key learning areas are incorporated in the classroom timetable and further teaching is supported in a number of specialist areas.

During these years of primary schooling students are engaged in stimulating activities which cater for individual learning styles and needs as they grow and develop.

PRIMARY SCHOOL (P-2)

Children are educated in a **caring and supportive environment** that prioritises the building of essential skills and knowledge.

The early Primary classroom is recognised as a learning environment where the **laying of strong foundations in literacy and numeracy** play a key role in a students' growth and development.

The Buddy Program enables students at the Foundation level to get to know and learn from Upper primary students. This assists with the smooth transition of kindergarten children into the school.

PRIMARY SCHOOL (3-6)

Students build and extend on the skills learnt in early Primary years as they progressively **develop independence** through structured, independent and group learning activities.

Interpersonal development is consolidated, and **leadership skills** are introduced and reinforced through a dedicated leadership program.

By developing the skills and strategies to become independent, inquiring and caring young people, **students are well prepared** for the Middle School.

Academic program – Core Subjects

Students across the Primary School are taught core subjects by their classroom teacher.

We use the Lutheran Education Australia Christian Studies Curriculum Framework as a basis for our **Christian Studies** units. Students have weekly Christian Studies lessons. Units of work are based around four major themes: Christian Beliefs, the Christian Church, Christian Living and Christianity and the World.

The Australian Curriculum forms the basis of the remainder of the curriculum. To cover the English curriculum (Reading and Viewing, Writing and Speaking and Listening) students participate in a range of activities.

Reading is taught in the early years through various means. For example: A Phonics program introduce letters and sounds at Prep. This progresses to word building and decoding. Students participate in shared reading, guided reading and reading using a shared inquiry approach. Early reading strategies focus on identifying initial sounds, building words, re-reading and using visual cues such as pictures. In the following years students develop a comprehensive vocabulary of known words through regular practice. Additional reading skills include mastering both literal and inferential comprehension whilst continuing to practise fluency and expression.

At Prep level students learn sounds using a Phonics program and this is built on at Year 1 and 2. From Years 1-6 we use the SMART **Spelling** program which involves a systematic teaching of one spelling pattern at a time which incorporates the meaning of words, syllables, sounds and letters and the most useful spelling rules. It has a clear P-6 scope and sequence which includes spelling patterns, and the skills and knowledge students need to become confident writers.

Handwriting is taught and practised daily concentrating on letter size, formation and placement.

VCOP (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers, Punctuation) and Big Write form the basis of our **Writing** program. This program is a differentiated approach for all writing levels. Through activities, writing tasks, conversations, discussions and explicit teaching students learn the steps they need to take in order to continuously improve their writing.

Speaking and Listening is encouraged through weekly tasks across the Primary school. This may include: informal listening and sharing in class, prepared talks on given topics, impromptu talks, project presentations, formal presentations and debating.

In the Australian Curriculum **Mathematics** is represented by three key areas: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. There are also four mathematical proficiencies: understanding, reasoning, fluency and problem-solving. These are developed through explicit teaching, practising computation strategies, independent written activities, playing games, manipulating materials, using apps and other digital programs such as Mathletics as well as real-life problem solving.

Units of work in **Integrated Studies** cover subjects such as Science, Humanities and Social Sciences (History, Geography, Civic and Citizenship and Economics and Business), Design Technologies and Health. Skills developed include questioning, researching, analysing, evaluating, reflecting and communicating.

Digital Technologies and Health are core subjects for students in Years 3-6 and taken by classroom teachers.

Year 3 and 4 students participate weekly in the **Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program**. This program aims to provide students with the skills and knowledge to grow, select and prepare nutritional foods.

Academic program – Specialist subjects

Prep	Year 1 and 2
PE (all year) Drama (1 semester) Music (1 semester) Visual Art (1 semester) Health (1 semester) Science (1 semester) Digital Technologies (1 semester)	PE (all year) German (all year) Music (1 semester) Visual Art (1 semester) Science (1 semester) Digital Technologies (1 semester)
Year 3 and 4	Year 5 and 6
PE (all year) German (all year) Science (all year) Music (1 semester) Visual Arts (1 semester)	PE (all year) German (all year) Science (all year) Music (1 semester) Visual Arts (1 semester) Technology electives (1 semester) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 5 – Materials Technology, Food Technology or Textiles • Year 6 – Materials Technology, Food Technology, Textiles or Robotics

School day structure

8:45	Classrooms open
8:55 – 9:20	Pastoral (Chapel/ Devotion)
9:20 – 10:05	Lesson 1
10:05 – 10:50	Lesson 2
10:50 – 11:10	Recess
11:10 – 11:55	Lesson 3
11:55 – 12:40	Lesson 4
12:40 – 12:50	Supervised eating time
12:50 – 1:35	Lunch
1:35 – 2:20	Lesson 5
2:20 – 3:05	Lesson 6
3:05	Dismissal

Behaviour Management

Worship

- Weekly chapel service led by students or school chaplain
- Brick devotions – P – 2, 3 – 6 each week led by staff
- In-class devotions
- Student-led devotions (Year 5)

Pastoral Care and Learning Support

- Pastoral Care
- Learning Support
 - Literacy Intervention
 - Learning Support Officers
 - Individual Learning Plans
- Wellbeing – Opportunities to support students through programs such as...
 - Cyber-safety
 - Bravehearts
 - Life Ed Van
 - Family education
- Age- level specific programs – Buddy Program (Prep and Year 5), PMP (Prep)

Co-curricular Activities

- Cross Country (P - 6)
- 3 – 6 Athletics
- P – 2 Tabloid Sports
- Swimming Lessons (P – 6)
- Swimming Sports (Years 3 – 6)
- Participation in network sporting events
- Debating (Year 5 - 6)
- Book Week Activities
- First Lego League Robotics Competition
- ALWS Awareness Day
- Incursions and Excursions

Beyond the Classroom – Extra - curricular activities

- Choir – P – 2 and 3 – 6 Choir
- Junior Strings Group
- School Concert (Even Year) / Wakakirri (Odd Year)
- Australian Mathematics Competition
- Chess club, LEGO club, Colouring club, Craft club, Battle of the Books

Beyond the Classroom - Camps

The purpose of camp is to give students an ultimate learning challenge and take the curriculum out of the classroom. Going on camp is about staying together with other people co-operatively, challenging oneself, taking responsibility, learning new things and most importantly, having fun.

In Year 3/4 Lady Northcote Camp and Kangarooobie Camp are specifically designed to positively impact on student education through fun and rewarding challenges.

In Year 5/6 Sovereign Hill Camp and Tandara Lutheran Camp offer students the opportunity to learn about what life was like during the Gold Rush and to learn about local landmarks and Indigenous culture.

All camps aim to activate key learning in:

- Decision making
- Problem solving
- Resilience
- Team building

The camps are attended on a biannual rotation, allowing for students to experience the full range of activities and locations on offer. In Year 3/4 the camp is a one night stay and in Year 5/6 the camp is a two-night stay.

Leadership

- Year 5 and Year 6 Leadership Programs
- Year 6 - Peer Support Program
- School and House Captains

Transition Programs

- Kinder to Prep Transition
- Primary to Middle School Transition

