



ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE

CANBERRA · EST 1954

Years 4-6 Course Guide

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Religion

St Edmund's College is a Christian Brothers School in the Edmund Rice tradition. The charism of Blessed Edmund Rice provides the students with a unique prism through which to view the world.

The Year 4 to 6 religion programs are based on the archdiocesan document Treasures New and Old and the four College touchstones of Liberating Education, Gospel Spirituality, Inclusive Community and Justice and Solidarity.

Together they provide the students with a solid base that supports and explains the view through the prism. The active participation in prayer, liturgy and the celebration of the Eucharist gives to the students with living examples of what they see through the prism.

English

The English curriculum is based on the Australian Curriculum and is organised around the strands of reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing. Knowledge of how language works is developed through exploring text types as well as explicitly through formal lessons. Our spelling program is based on a variety of approaches: looking at the origin of words, identifying spelling patterns, breaking words into sound units, vocabulary lists and mnemonics.

Reading is encouraged through the thematic units covered in class and through our Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) Program. Developing comprehension skills is undertaken throughout the curriculum. Writing in a variety of styles and for different audiences and purposes is taught throughout Years 4-6. Creating multi-modal texts is a feature of our courses and this involves students combining written and visual text.

Viewing is increasingly important in our visual society. Responding to film and visual stimulus and understanding techniques used to manipulate the audience is a feature of our program. Developing confident speakers through a range of activities is also an important aspect of the Junior School years.

Mathematics

The Mathematics curriculum is based on the Australian Curriculum Syllabus covering the essential strands, and incorporating the Working Mathematically strand. A great emphasis is placed on ensuring the curriculum is relevant and meaningful for the lives of our boys.

Importance is placed on the development and consolidation of basic skills through games and other activities. Important outcomes are reinforced through the use of the Signpost Mathematics program. Problem solving is an integral component of our mathematics program with an explicit focus during our Cooperative Workshop sessions.

Science

The Science program is based on Australian Curriculum Syllabus. This syllabus is brought to life through a combination of experiments, theoretical investigations and other practical activities.

Where appropriate, boys are exposed to experiment work in the High School Laboratories.

The essence of the program is a focus on open-ended, discovery-style activities which promote creativity and higher order thinking skills. The units are structured specifically to promote effective communication and cooperative skills through group problem solving.

Creative & Performing Arts

The Creative and Performing Arts Program is based on the Australian Curriculum.

Each area involves different approaches to arts practices and critical and creative thinking that reflect distinct bodies of knowledge, understanding and skills. The curriculum examines past, current and emerging arts practices in each art form across a range of cultures and places.

The Junior School Arts areas are:

- Dance
- Drama
- Visual Arts
- Music - (conducted by specialist teachers)

Languages

The Language Department aims to provide the students with a supportive environment where students can develop their full potential in an atmosphere that is conducive to learning a second language. It is hoped that students will enjoy learning and that with a variety of teaching strategies the courses will be broad and flexible.

Language study is a compulsory subject for all students in Years 4 to 6. A mixture of Japanese and Italian is taught during Years 4-6, designed to assist students in choosing a language pathway from Year 7. The language study is activity based with a focus on role-plays, speaking and cultural activities.

Humanities and Social Sciences

The Junior School Humanities and Social Sciences program follows the Australian Curriculum.

The topics covered include History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business (Year 5 & 6 only).

Through studying Humanities and Social Sciences, students will develop the ability to question, think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively, make decisions and adapt to change. Think about and responding to issues requires an understanding of the key historical, geographical, political, economic and societal factors involved, and how these different factors interrelate.

Physical Education & Health

The Health and Physical Education program is based on the Australian Curriculum Years 4 to 6 learning areas.

Students explore:

- Personal and social factors that support and contribute to their identities.
- Emotional responses in varying situations.
- An understanding of how their bodies grow and change as they get older.
- Skills that supports students to build and maintain respectful relationships.
- Making health-enhancing and safe decisions
- Interpreting health messages from different sources to take action to enhance their own health and wellbeing.

In Physical Education students develop:

- Proficiency across the range of fundamental movement skills.
- Movements to create more complicated movement patterns and sequences.
- Knowledge about movement and how the body moves.

Students also explore activities that meet their needs and interests and learn about the benefits of regular physical activity. Students also have the opportunity to engage in a range of sporting events including the College's annual athletics, swimming and cross-country carnivals. From these events, selected students can represent the College at local, district and national events. Indigenous games, Health and PE week and internal visits from various sporting organisations are part of the program.

These essential curriculum areas are undertaken by a trained Physical Education teacher while Health is taught by the classroom teacher. The essential knowledge and skill gained will assist students' progress into the year 7-10 Health and Physical Education program.

From a sporting prospective St Edmund's is aligned to the South Weston District Primary School representative program. This allows students to trial across a variety of sports to gain representative honours at district, state and national at Under 12 age level.

Design & Technology

The Junior School Design and Technology program forms part of our suite of specialist lessons. For this subject we utilise the High School workshop down one level from the Junior School. This program aims to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to ensure that, individually and collaboratively, students:

- develop confidence as critical users of technologies and designers and producers of designed solutions
- investigate, generate and critique innovative and ethical designed solutions for sustainable futures
- use design and systems thinking to generate design ideas and communicate these to a range of audiences
- produce designed solutions suitable for a range of technologies contexts by selecting and manipulating a range of materials, systems, components, tools and equipment creatively, competently and safely; and managing processes
- evaluate processes and designed solutions and transfer knowledge and skills to new situations
- understand the roles and responsibilities of people in design and technologies occupations and how they contribute to society.

Library

The Kath Durie Junior School Library offers each student a contemporary program designed to enhance information acquisition and processing skills whilst encouraging awareness and curiosity.

Boys have opportunities for borrowing one lesson per week during class time as well as being open at other times during the day. In the Library lessons the boys follow specific units to encourage a love of reading.

The Library also supports delivery of the Digital Technology program which follows the Australian Curriculum. Students use computational thinking and information systems to define, design and implement digital solutions.

Teaching & Learning Support

The Teaching & Learning Support Department are a specially trained group of personnel who identify and support students with special needs throughout our Junior School. Each child is comprehensively tested at the beginning and throughout each school year. Testing is focused around the areas of literacy and numeracy. Personnel are utilised within classrooms to assist identified students with their learning. Class teachers collaborate closely with Teaching & Learning Support staff ensuring that major goals are consolidated throughout the school day.