



2021

YEAR 7 CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

MERCY COLLEGE



From our Principal

Lila McInerney

Year 7 is the time for your daughter to lay the foundations of good learning habits and life skills and Mercy College is the ideal environment for our students to develop a strong sense of belonging and purpose.

Mercy College offers a comprehensive and balanced selection of subjects that allows all students to excel. These subject offerings are designed to challenge learners to explore and consider deep questions, and big ideas.

Curriculum and wellbeing programs are complemented by the co-curricular activities and whole school cultural, sporting and religious celebrations. All of these contribute to a rich education experience and academic excellence in our students.

We value and promote in student course planning a learning program that exposes students to both a breadth and depth of ideas, concepts and strategies for contributing to society. Each of the key learning areas offer subjects within the curriculum, which are built upon the foundations of the Victorian Curriculum. Experiences within these subjects enable students to develop their knowledge and understanding of key concepts and skills, in preparation for further compulsory and post compulsory studies.

The Mercy College Year 7 Curriculum Handbook is an important part of the course planning and future subject selection process. This handbook is a tool for students, in partnership with parents/guardians, to be informed of the requirements and expectations of studying Year 7 at Mercy College. It also provides an overview of the individual program unit subjects that students study to complete their compulsory schooling.

Mercy College is committed to the principles and practice of Australian democracy and the values for Australian schooling. All learning experiences are designed to enable students to explore issues, questions and problems in ways that are meaningful, strongly engaged with Catholic beliefs and in a global context.

We look forward to working in partnership with you as together we prepare our students to realise their potential and maximise the achievement of future pathway goals.

Lila McInerney

College Principal

"Deep learning ... unfolds as a process that respects the diverse cultures, worldviews and backgrounds of students and actively engages them with Catholic beliefs and values relevant to their learning."



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Year 7 Subjects

Students undertake a range of compulsory subjects. Compulsory subjects are either for a full year (two semesters) or semester length (two terms).

At Mercy College, Year 7 students undertake seven compulsory year-long subjects and eight semester length compulsory subjects.

Compulsory Subjects

All Year 7 students will study the following:

Compulsory Full Year Subjects	Compulsory Single Semester Subjects
Religious Education	History
English	Geography and Commerce
Mathematics	Italian
Science	Indonesian
Physical Education	Dance
STEM	Music
Student Wellbeing Program	Art
	Food Studies

Religious Education

Religious Education in Year 7 focuses on the student's ability to engage in dialogue with the Catholic tradition, the issues of the day and the students' understanding of themselves and their faith as a developing young person. There are three strands of learning in Religious Education: Knowledge and Understanding – seeking truth; Reasoning and Responding – making meaning and Personal and Communal Engagement – the living story of faith alongside others. During Religious Education lessons in Year 7, students investigate what it means to be part of the Mercy College community, they engage with Scripture - both Old and New Testaments, they explore the Sacraments and find meaning through understanding morality and their role in caring for creation in a deeper and more sustainable way.

Duration of Study:

All year

Topics Studied:

- Belonging to The Mercy Community
- Stations of the Cross
- The Liturgical Year and the Word of God
- Hebrew Scriptures
- The Christian Scriptures
- The Eucharist
- The Way we Live (Morality Education)
- Caring for Creation

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Inquiry learning - using research skills and the student's own desire to learn to investigate a question or questions related to a specific topic or area of study.
- Class test - students are assessed on the knowledge they have gained from a Unit under test conditions.
- Group projects and presentations - students work in pairs or small groups on a project and present their findings to the class so they can learn from one another.

English

The English curriculum is built around the three interrelated strands of Language, Literature and Literacy. Together the strands focus on developing students' knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating. Students engage with a variety of texts for enjoyment. They listen to, read, view, interpret, evaluate and perform a range of spoken, written and multimodal texts in which the primary purpose is aesthetic, as well as texts designed to inform and persuade. Students develop their understanding of how texts, including media texts, are influenced by context, purpose and audience. Students create a range of imaginative, informative and persuasive types of texts.

Duration of Study:

All year

Topics Studied in Semester One:

- What is English, the subject?
- Viewing & Creating: *Wall-E* film study
- Analysing & Presenting Argument - Persuasive language

Topics Studied in Semester Two:

- Reading & Creating - a personal response
- Reading & Creating: *The Giver* novel study
- Reading & Creating - Poetry Unit

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Writer's notebook personal response
- Analytical text response essay
- Creative response to a text
- Reading comprehension activities
- Persuasive essay
- Oral book report
- Multimodal assignment
- Folio of poems
- Oral presentation on poetry
- Wide reading

Mathematics

The Year 7 Mathematics course is made up of three content strands: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Each of these is further enhanced by the proficiency strands of Understanding, Fluency, Problem Solving and Reasoning. Students are introduced to the scientific calculators.

Duration of Study:

All year

Topics Studied:

- Whole Numbers
- Geometry
- Number Properties & Patterns
- Fractions & Percentages
- Algebra
- Decimals
- Negative Numbers
- Statistics & Probability
- Polygons & Solids
- Equations
- Measurement
- Algorithmic Thinking

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Tests
- Summary notes
- Modelling tasks
- Problem solving tasks
- Investigations
- Calculator skills

Science

The Year 7 Science course introduces students to the various sub-topics found in Science. The scientific approach is taught in testing phenomena and acquiring evidence to support various theories. Students look at what science is and means. They explore differences within and between groups of living things and how classification helps organise this diversity. They learn about themselves as adolescents and the changes they are experiencing within their own bodies. Students explore the way in which objects move based on what forces are acting on them. They study the relationships between the Earth, Sun and Moon systems in which models are used to predict and explain events. Students develop their understanding of forces, unbalanced forces and simple machines. They deepen their understanding of interactions between organisms within an ecosystem. Students look at chemistry and the different techniques used to separate various mixtures. They describe situations where scientific knowledge from different science disciplines were used to solve real-world problems and explain how the solution was viewed by, and impacted on different groups in society.

Duration of Study:

All year

Topics Studied:

- Introduction to Science and Lab Safety
- Mixtures
- Classification
- Forces
- Body Systems
- Earth in Space

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Unit tests
- Practical investigations
- Inquiry investigations

Physical Education

Year 7 Physical Education aims to encourage life-long participation in physical activity. Students will develop and refine a range of movement and manipulative skills through participation in a variety of team and individual games and activities. These activities, including swimming and water safety, fundamental motor skills, gymnastics and fitness testing. Students will reflect on and evaluate their personal levels of involvement in physical activity, and identify means by which they could be more active on a daily basis. Students will also monitor and analyse their own performance and will combine motor skills, strategic thinking and tactical knowledge in both individual and team activities.

Duration of Study:

All year

Topics Studied:

- Aquatic Education: Observations of Stroke Development and Evidence of Water Safety
- Fundamental Motors Skills
- Fitness Testing
- Gymnastics
- Modified Games

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Aquatic Education: stroke development and water safety
- Gymnastics routine presentation
- Problem solving within practical activities
- Participation and observation of skills/technique
- Demonstration of knowledge and understanding of rules, tactics and strategies associated with each sport
- Demonstration of teamwork and group cooperation

STEM

Learning in Digital Technologies focuses on further developing understanding and skills in computational thinking such as decomposing problems and engaging students with a wider range of information systems as they broaden their experiences and involvement programming activities.

Students will have opportunities to create a range of solutions, both digital and non-digital, construction design challenges without the use of technology, programmable multimedia assets, such as SCRATCH coding and Minecraft coding, and using EdBlocks and EdPy with the Edison Robots. Students plan and manage individual and team projects with some autonomy. They consider ways of managing the exchange of ideas, tasks and files, and techniques for monitoring progress and feedback.

Duration of Study:

All year

Topics Studied:

- Build and Construct
- Algorithmic Coding
- Edison Challenge

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Enquiry based assessments and designs

Student Wellbeing Program

This course adopts the *Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships* program and learning materials, which are aimed to develop students' social and emotional skills, and positive relationship skills.

Duration of Study:

All year

Topics Studied:

- Emotional Literacy
- Personal Strengths
- Positive Coping
- Problem Solving
- Stress Management
- Help Seeking
- Gender and identity
- Positive Gender Relations

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- A range of different individual, group, and whole-class activities
- No assessment tasks

History

This subject provides a study of history from the time of the earliest human communities in Africa to the end of the ancient period. Students develop an understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures prior to European settlement and challenge the misconceptions often held about these cultures with primary and secondary source evidence. Students undertake an investigation into an ancient Mediterranean civilisation of their choice. They also explore the dynasties of Ancient China with an emphasis on the Qin Dynasty and the cause and effect of changes that occurred in China during this period of time.

Duration of Study:

Semester

Topics Studied:

- Ancient Australia
- Ancient China
- Mediterranean World (Ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome)

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Source analysis
- Research tasks
- Extended response
- Presentations
- Source comparisons

Geography and Commerce

In this subject students are introduced to ways of exploring, analysing and understanding the characteristics of the places that make up our world, using the geographic concepts of space, place, interconnection, change, environment, sustainability and scale. Students focus on water as a resource to develop an understanding of the economic concept of scarcity. They investigate causes of atmospheric and hydrological hazards and the effects on both the environment and the economy. Students also focus on place and liveability by examining factors that influence liveability and how it is perceived. The liveability of places is investigated using various studies from Australia and around the world.

Duration of Study:

Semester

Topics Studied:

- Geospatial Skills
- Water in the World
- Liveability

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Research tasks
- Extended response
- Annotated visual display
- Presentations
- Skills test
- Map construction and interpretation
- Graph construction and interpretation

Languages: Indonesian

The Year 7 Indonesian course introduces the basic elements of the language and culture of Indonesia through a storytelling approach. Students listen, read, write and speak in the language on topics related to greetings, personal identity and school. Students are introduced to the diversity of Indonesia and the importance of the Australian-Indonesian relationship in our world today.

Duration of Study:

Semester

Topics Studied:

- Greetings
- Personal identity
- School

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Listening comprehension
- Reading comprehension
- Viewing comprehension
- Writing personal profile/email/article
- Speaking interview/conversation

Languages: Italian

The Year 7 Italian course develops the students' understanding and use of simple patterns of language. Students begin to recognise and produce language using the imperative and present tense. Activities include presentations, role-plays, written tasks and listening and reading comprehension tasks. Students also develop their intercultural understanding by looking at Italian celebrations, customs and traditions.

Duration of Study:

Semester

Topics Studied:

- Greetings
- Family
- School
- Teaching Others a Skill

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Listening comprehension
- Reading comprehension
- Viewing comprehension
- Writing personal profile/email/article
- Speaking interview/conversation

Dance

The Year 7 course focuses on the rhythmic movement potential of the body and on developing confidence and a positive self-image in movement performances. Through the introduction to a variety of dance styles it aims to develop students' social skills, co-ordination, dance techniques and ability to work cooperatively. Furthermore, the course aims to introduce safe dance practices through a range of dance related activities. Students learn a groups dance and perform at the annual Creative Arts Concert held in September each year.

Duration of Study:

Semester

Topics Studied:

- Technique & Reflections
- Body Awareness & Safe Dance
- The Elements of Movement
- Dance Styles
- Indigenous Dance
- Performance Choreography

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Technique assessment
- Written assessment
- Performance assessment

Food Studies

This unit of work is an introduction to practical food preparation using the processes of design and technology. Students learn appropriate terminology, equipment names and uses, ingredient characteristics and how to prepare food in a safe and hygienic manner. Students are introduced to the Design Processes of investigating, generating, management, producing, analysing and evaluating.

Duration of Study:

Semester

Topics Studied:

- Kitchen Basics
- Applying Kitchen Basics
- Applying the Design Process

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

This subject is practical in nature and most/all lessons will have a practical component.

- Topic test
- Design tasks

Art

This course encourages artistic development through the exploration of art in a range of mediums. Students design and create their visual expressions from selected themes and concepts in a variety of visual art forms and styles. Students research and develop an informed opinion about artworks and artists from various art periods learn the various materials, mediums and techniques those artists used. They examine their own culture and develop a deeper understanding of their practices as an artist.

Duration of Study:

Semester

Topics Studied:

- The Elements of Art
- Ceramics
- Art Period: French Impressionism

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Drawing task
- Ceramic object
- Landscape painting

Music

The Year 7 Music course focuses on introducing students to a range of musical instruments, sounds, styles and vocabulary. Tasks are designed to encourage individual musical development, as well as ensemble skills. Each student in Year 7 Music learns a brass or woodwind instrument, participating in small group lessons and a Class Band. They perform as a Band at the Performing Arts Concert. Students also learn relevant theory and aural and comment on the use of music to enhance or create the appropriate mood in films.

Duration of Study:

Semester

Topics Studied:

- The Band Program
- Introduction to Music
- Music Theory
- Film Music

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Performance assessments
- Film Music analysis

MERCY COLLEGE
760 Sydney Road
COBURG NORTH VIC 3058

T: + 61 3 9319 9299

F: + 61 3 9354 9232

ABN 48 146 301 765

CRICOS 02227J