



MELBOURNE INFANT SCHOOL

CURRICULUM POLICY STATEMENT

Curriculum Intent

The Melbourne Infant Curriculum is broad, balanced and inclusive and has the National Curriculum (2014) at its heart. It has been created for **all** the children, with the aim of ensuring that they develop a love of learning and activate their enquiring minds. High quality teaching of basic skills, knowledge, concepts and values will provide the children with the ability to learn and opportunities to succeed. We actively encourage the children to participate in the design of their learning journey and to ask questions throughout each topic, which they all solve together. Frequent enhancement opportunities will provide the children with stimulating, first-hand experiences to engage them in their learning. Through these opportunities we will instill our belief that childhood should be a happy, investigative and interesting time, characterised by a thirst for new experiences and knowledge and where there are no limits to curiosity.

Reading for pleasure is a key aspect of our curriculum because children who love to read, who value books and who seek out new texts, become fantastic life-long learners. Therefore, we will provide our children with the time and opportunity to access a range of texts and develop the skills to become fluent, able and confident readers for the future.

The Melbourne Infant Curriculum encompasses personal, social, moral and cultural learning, as well as dedicated topics relating to British Values. We celebrate, welcome and value differences within our school community through assemblies and visits to different places within the community including places of worship of different faiths.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), the Development Matters statements and Early Years curriculum are followed and implemented for all seven areas of learning. Our EYFS Curriculum is topic-based and planned around quality texts which enhances the children's experience of books. Children will have the best opportunities to achieve the Early Learning Goals (ELGs) through high quality teacher led activities, and skills focused independent learning opportunities. This will take place through continuous and enhanced provision across the unit.

At Melbourne Infant School every child is recognised as a unique individual and we pride ourselves in our healthy and positive relationships with pupils. The characteristics of effective learning from EYFS continue into Key Stage 1. The STAR Standard (please see our website) skills and attitudes run throughout our curriculum. These growth-mindset centred attributes promote personal growth and provide strong foundations for future development. Children will leave the school with confidence, a sense of belonging, and the critical thinking skills that enable them to make connections and become lifelong learners.

Curriculum Implementation

Following the National Curriculum, subject coordinators have developed 'provision maps' for each subject which state what will be taught and when during the year. This has been done to ensure that there is full curriculum coverage and progression of knowledge and skills across the school. Each Learning Team creates long and medium-term plans that incorporate these 'provision maps' to provide an understanding of what is taught in each topic.

Our curriculum is taught through six topics each school year. Due to mixed-age classes within the school, the Melbourne Infant Curriculum comprises a two-year rolling program. The topics are closely linked to the children's interests to ensure maximum engagement and provide a context for learning (in a cross-curricular way where appropriate). Hooks and/or visitors are used to engage and excite the children and to help them make memorable connections. At the beginning of each lesson our recaps - "sticky starters" - ensure that children consolidate prior learning which enables them to make new connections. Vocabulary is a key part of each lesson and children are actively encouraged to discuss words which they do not yet know. Children's learning is reinforced through the use of topic boards in classrooms. Interactive displays in classes engage children across a wide variety of subjects. Homework menus are sent out termly and provide families with suggested activities which complement the Melbourne Infant Curriculum. Children are encouraged to bring this work into school where it is displayed.

Assessment procedures are robust and enable teachers to plan for the needs of children throughout the school, including additional interventions where required.

Our Local and Hidden Curriculum

Our local and hidden curriculum is a valued part of the children's learning which complements and enhances our curriculum package. It recognises our local history, community and economy, enabling us to consider the curriculum in its widest sense. The delivery of this curriculum is integral to the whole school day. It is delivered through subject-specific teaching and during extra-curricular activities such as those listed below. This develops children's knowledge in a range of areas such as arts, sport, local history, community events, and health and wellbeing. Our school ethos ensures that the informal curriculum carries as much importance for our children as academic outcomes.

Extra opportunities (Only at MIS)

- A wide range of extra-curricular clubs
- Melbourne Arts Festival
- Churches Working together - Experience Easter, Experience Pentecost
- Melbourne Carnival
- Remembrance in Melbourne
- Use of locality across the subjects
- Drummercise
- Local artists
- Open schools events for families
- Local community performances e.g. choir

Curriculum Impact

At Melbourne Infant School our children have a love for learning. We know the positive impact of our curriculum from regular pupil interviews and quality learning throughout the school. Our individual progress and attainment data also illustrate the positive impact we desire. The views from parents show the Melbourne Curriculum we offer and the wide range of additional activities provided meet the needs of all our children.

Our curriculum helps prepare **all** our children for the next stage in their education and beyond. It provides them with the skills, confidence and sense of belonging which will enable them to achieve and become well rounded citizens.

