



MACLEOD COLLEGE
A STATE P-12 SCHOOL



Parent Handbook

Early Years, 2022

CRICOS Provider Code: 00861K

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Class of 2020



The College - History and Staff

Macleod College grew out of the 1996 merger of Macleod Primary School and Macleod High School. It provides a comprehensive primary and secondary education in a government school on a single campus, which is located adjacent to Macleod Railway Station. While the majority of the four grades of primary students live locally, many of the secondary students come from areas accessed by the Hurstbridge train and the various bus lines, which terminate at stations on this line. The College provides an academic education within a caring environment and is particularly proud that the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) students have consistently obtained ATAR scores well above the state average.

At Macleod College, the staff are enthusiastic, passionate and dedicated. Our staffing profile demonstrates a mix of experienced staff who have been at the College for a number of years, and staff who have joined the community more recently, bringing with them a fresh outlook, new skills and talents.

Specialist staff work across the college in various subjects, support and enrichment programs, and in a range of sporting activities. Students feel supported, encouraged and inspired by staff who are willing to provide the extra assistance necessary to help them to achieve their best.



Positive Education

In 2021 our Positive Education Program will continue. This program develops the capacity of students in areas such as resilience, problem solving, and attitudes to life. The positive Education program is based on the science of Positive Psychology and emphasises individual strengths and teaches students how to:

- Enhance their wellbeing
- Deal with life's challenges
- Live a life of meaning and purpose
- Strengthen relationships
- Strive for their dreams

Wellbeing

Whilst the primary purpose of the College is to enable the students to access an academic education, it is recognised that this is best done within a caring, supportive framework. By promoting an atmosphere of respect and equality amongst peers, students learn the value of working in a team with many leadership opportunities along the way.

Year level co-ordinators are supported by a qualified and experienced psychologist who is available by appointment. The College has the services of a school nurse two days a week whose role is to provide support for staff and students and a wellbeing co-ordinator who oversees the program. The College also facilitates access to all types of community support for those experiencing difficulties.



Policies

Student Engagement Policy

Macleod College recognises that its first function is to provide an environment in which all students are able to achieve an education which is commensurate with their ability. Consequently it recognises that it has a duty to provide a cooperative and caring environment where members of the College community feel valued and respected and are free from harassment and bullying. The Student Engagement Policy equips students and staff with the procedures to create a stimulating and secure learning environment. The College promotes high standards of behaviour based upon co-operation, courtesy, respect, mutual responsibility and self discipline. The students, parents, teachers and administration have a joint responsibility to ensure that such a learning environment is provided and consequently they have an obligation to implement and support the Student Engagement Policy.



Uniform

The College Council approves the uniform which must be worn by all students who attend the College. Students or parents who experience a financial problem when purchasing the uniform are asked to contact the Business Manager who is able to suggest strategies to overcome this difficulty. Every attempt is made to reduce the cost of uniform and a range of second hand items are available from the College.

Students are required to wear the complete school uniform while at school and while travelling to and from school. When competing in inter-school sport they are required to wear the proper sports uniform to and from the venue. The PE uniform must be worn for practical classes.

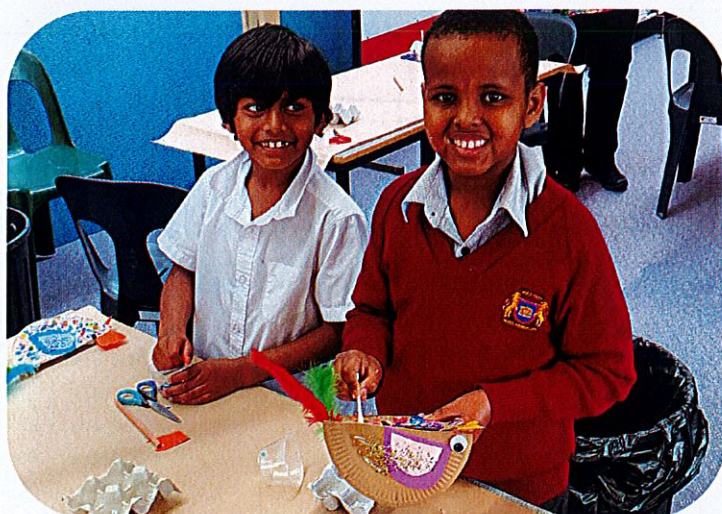
There is a performance uniform for Instrumental Music Students which is worn for all concert performances. Please see the Uniform Policy Document (available on the website), which includes the price list and Uniform Shop opening hours, for more information.



Bullying and Harassment

All students are taught to recognise the nature of bullying, to reflect on its causes and effects and what to do if they become aware of instances of such behaviour. This is undertaken within classroom programs as well as through the use of professional presenters and programs.

Bullying and harassment of others is unacceptable and not tolerated at Macleod College.



Prep - Grade 6 Curriculum

School-wide special activity programs

- Excursions/Incursions/ camps
 - Wellbeing Support
 - Reading Eggs- online
 - Mathletics - online
 - First Aid
 - Literacy & numeracy
 - Integrated Curriculum Units
 - Library program
 - Positive Education Program
 - iPads and Netbooks
 - P-12 Buddy Programs
 - Positive Education
 - Whole school activity days focusing on C21 Learning
 - Student Leadership
 - Dress-up / out of uniform days
- Instrumental music program:
- ◇ Orchestra
 - ◇ Chamber Music groups
 - ◇ Choir
 - ◇ Small group lessons

Prep - 6 Core Learning

- English - Early Years and Middle years Programs
 - Maths - Early Years and Middle years Programs
 - Specialist German Program
 - Specialist PE/ Sport program
 - Science
- The Arts
- ◇ Specialist Visual Art/ craft
 - ◇ Specialist Music
 - ◇ Classroom Music
- Integrated Studies - enquiry based learning
- Technology
- ◇ Computers
 - ◇ Media
 - ◇ STEAM

Primary Enrichment and Support

English

- Home Reading
- Phonemic Awareness
- Individual Student Learning Plans
- Intervention/ extension
- Parent Helper Program
- UNSW Testing
- Literacy Timetable Block
- Middle Years Literacy
- English as an Additional Language

Maths

- Enrichment program
 - UNSW Testing
 - Numeracy Timetable Block
- ### PE/ Sport
- PMP
 - Interschool Sport
 - District Track and Field Athletics
 - Hoop Time
 - Gymnastics P - 3
 - P- 6 Swimming lessons

- Swimming Carnival
- Athletics carnival

Other

- Performance Program
- Prep Transition
- Leadership Program
- Camps & excursions
- Activity days
- Buddies
- FISH Philosophy
- Family Life
- Life Education

Communication

At Macleod college we value the communication and dialogue that we engage in with our families so that they are included and informed in all aspects of their child's learning, progress and wellbeing.

Some of the ways that we do this include:

- Welcome letters to all students and families
- Class Term newsletters with learning overviews and calendar
- Meet the teachers at the start of the school year
- Social events such as school picnic
- Parent/Teacher/Student conferences
- Assessment and Reporting – Written Reports
- College Newsletter
- Open door policy to communicate matters of any concern
- Meetings by appointment as required
- COMPASS system for email, communication, notifications for excursions, payments, reports etc. Families are given a booklet on how to use the system and a login when they enrol.

Early Years Program

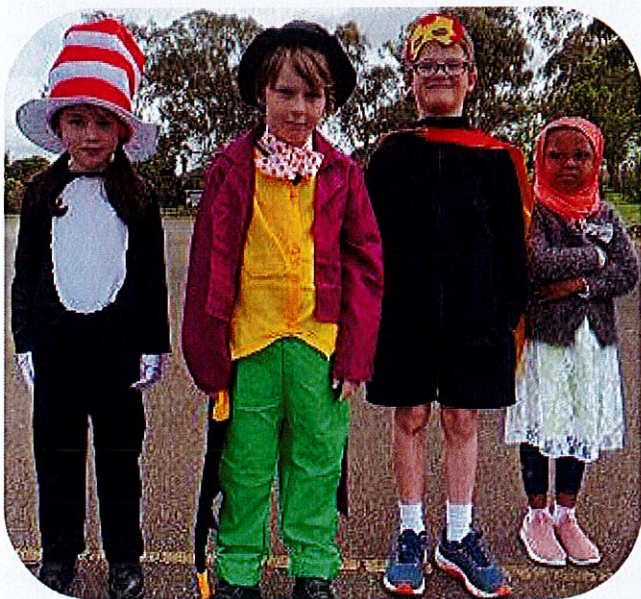
“To open a child’s mind to learning and discovery is a gift for life”

Early & Middle Years

During the early and middle school years, it is important to foster creativity, encourage new learning and provide opportunities for success. This year we have the following classes: Prep/1, 2/3 and two 4/5/6. Ongoing monitoring and assessment supports focused teaching, which is at the appropriate developmental level for individual students. A joy of learning through discussion, investigation, collaboration and sharing is encouraged throughout these years.

Early Years Program – Literacy

The Early Years Literacy Program incorporates Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening into a literacy block every day. During these sessions, children of similar needs are grouped. They are given the opportunity to work intensively with the teacher to develop their Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening skills. A love of literature is developed through the sharing of all types of books and by creating and sharing our own stories. This is also fostered through our library where the children have access to a wonderful collection of picture story, novels and non fiction titles.



Early Years Program-Numeracy

Children learn and discover about Maths through 'hands-on' experiences connected to things and actions with which we are familiar. The Early Years Numeracy program involves the teaching of Maths every day. During Maths sessions children may work individually, in a small group or as a whole class. Children are encouraged to use 'concrete' materials to enable them to better develop understandings of concepts.



Transition

The kinder to school transition program begins early in the year with a strong focus on shared activities and visits with local kinders. The College also visit local kindergartens to talk to parent groups as well as running a special 'readiness for school' talk for families.

Our formal program begins in term 4 with 3 scheduled transition mornings offering a taste of school. A parent session is also conducted with tips on school readiness and an informal morning tea and an opportunity to get to know each other. The College also runs an Information Evening in term 4 to provide families with all the necessary information required for a smooth start to school. We are also able to facilitate additional individualised transition sessions as required by some families to support the best start to school.

Integrated Curriculum

We see the child as capable and curious and we appreciate that they are on a continuous journey to understand the world around them. An Integrated curriculum approach to teaching and learning is used where areas of the curriculum are taught under one topic using VICTORIAN CURRICULUM - English, Mathematics, the Arts, Personal Development, Science and Technology are incorporated with Humanities.

Through this type of approach, children can make connections across all curriculum areas and a collaborative inquiry learning approach is encouraged.



Enrichment and Support Programs



Macleod College offers Literacy Support to students with reading difficulties in Year One. Individual Learning Plans are implemented for students operating at the lower or higher end of the learning continuum.

An Educational Psychologist is available for either parents or teachers to refer students where needed. A Speech Pathologist assists students with articulation or language difficulties.

Students have the opportunity to participate in the University of NSW competitions in English, Maths, Science, Computer, Spelling and Writing.

On Demand Testing and Progressive Achievement Tests (ACER) are conducted at points during the year.

Specialist

We recognise that children learn in a wide variety of ways and are capable of expressing themselves in a rich and vibrant manner.

The timetable runs over a 10 day cycle. Over this period of time students are involved in lessons taken by teachers, who are specialists in their field such as P.E., Art, LOTE- German Music and STEAM.

Buddy Program

The incoming Foundation students usually meet their Grade 6 buddies at the last transition session before they begin school.

They receive a welcome letter from their buddy and spend time in the first week of school eating lunch and having some playground time together. The teachers plan a comprehensive schedule of buddy activities making it a supportive and enjoyable program.

The year 9 students have also developed a buddy program which supports and transcend the different levels of the College by building strong relationships. Some of their activities involve a buddy breakfast for the Foundation students and their families as well as supporting in the classroom with literacy and numeracy activities.

Choir/Concert

A singing teacher is supporting classes with a classroom singing program. Students have the opportunity to be involved with choir and all students are involved in our bi-annual concert/dance program.

Parent Participation

The Early Years program is well supported by the strategic assistance of classroom helpers. The Classroom Helpers Training program is designed to support the work of parents and helpers who assist in classrooms. Training sessions for Classroom Helpers occur during the first semester.

Parents are also welcome to assist the school in any way, especially during special events and activity days. We have an active Parents & Friends group which meets monthly and is involved with the College program.



Ongoing Monitoring and Assessment

Ongoing monitoring and assessment supports and evaluates students' progress. The New Reporting System tracks student achievement over time and informs you about your child's strengths and areas for improvement. Reports are available via the COMPASS network. All students in Years 3 & 5 will be involved in the National Testing Program (NAPLAN).

Reports are issued at the end of each semester. Parent/Teacher/Student interviews are held twice a year. An informal meeting or information evening is held at the start of the year for parents to meet their child's teacher, learn about the curriculum and to exchange information.

Online Literacy and Numeracy Testing for Prep – Year 2 and On Demand Testing for Year 3 onwards.

2021 Charges

The Macleod College School Council makes every effort to keep the cost and purchasing of additional items to a minimum. We also try to ensure that the costs are affordable for all parents.

Essential Student Learning Items

Those items that your child needs for school that are not provided by Government funding.

Primary \$150

Voluntary Financial Contributions

Financial contributions that you may choose to pay to support our 2021 projects.

Wellbeing	\$30
First Aid	\$20
ICT Equipment Fund	\$25
Grounds & Maintenance	\$30

Music Academy Program

Prep - 10 Tuition	\$550*
Piano/Drum Hire & Maintenance	\$150
Instrument Hire (dependent on availability)	\$200
2nd Instrument Tuition	\$200

*\$100 deposit is required to secure a place in the Music Academy program.

Macleod College Music Academy

In 2011, Macleod College launched the Macleod College Music Academy (MCMA), a program available to all students from beginners to advanced and providing the Northern Region with outstanding specialized music education.

Our History

Macleod College has a strong history of music education. It was established as one of four specialist music schools in the 1970's and continues to maintain high standards of music performance, creativity and innovation. One in five students at Macleod are currently involved in the performance program.

What we offer

MCMA provides a safe and accepting environment where all students are valued and can express their talents and creativity.

Students enrolled in the Macleod College Music Academy are provided with access to:

- tuition in all areas of strings, wind, brass, percussion and voice with highly experienced and practicing musicians
- a wide range of innovative and quality performance ensembles
- individualised learning plans
- study of a second instrument
- programs in leadership and teamwork
- access to AMEB and ANZCA examinations
- regular performance opportunities
- an enjoyable and fulfilling school experience
- music tours and performance camps
- the best value for money musical experience in the northern region

What we Achieve

Macleod students regularly:

- are among the top VCE Music students in the state, and consistently achieve scores of 40+ and invitations to perform at Top Class
- receive their first preference at tertiary institutions such as Victorian College of the Arts (VCA), West Australian Performing Arts (WAPA), Monash University and Ballarat Academy of Performing Arts
- participate in many quality performances
- perform at festivals and competitions such as Generations in Jazz, State Schools Spectacular and the Royal South Street Eisteddfod

Our Facilities

Macleod College possesses a purpose built 330 seat performing arts centre complete with dedicated instrumental teaching rooms, rehearsal and performance spaces.

We provide a full range of percussion and hire instruments, a grand piano and recording equipment.

Our Partners

MCMA is building an impressive list of community partners who will work with us to provide the most comprehensive music experience in the area.

How to Enrol

Expression of Interest forms can be completed online through our website - <http://macleod.vic.edu.au/pages/musicacd.html>

NEW PEDAGOGIES FOR DEEP LEARNING | A GLOBAL RESEARCH PROJECT

NEW PEDAGOGIES

- STUDENT VOICE AND AGENCY
- BLENDED LEARNING
- PROJECT BASED/INQUIRY LEARNING
- DIRECT INSTRUCTION

A fusion of proven pedagogical practices and emerging innovative practices.



DEEP LEARNING

Authentic engagement in real world challenges. It is the ability to master and leverage existing content knowledge, making links to reinterpret and create new meaning.

- COLLABORATION
- CRITICAL THINKING
- CREATIVITY
- CITIZENSHIP
- COMMUNICATION
- CHARACTER

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

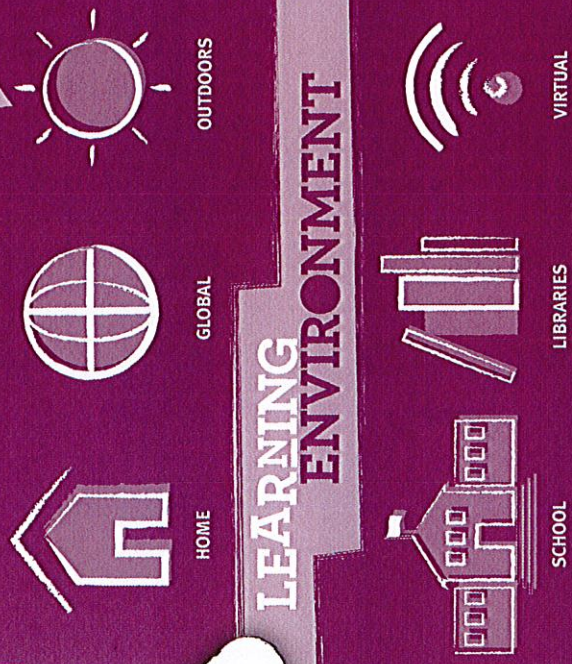
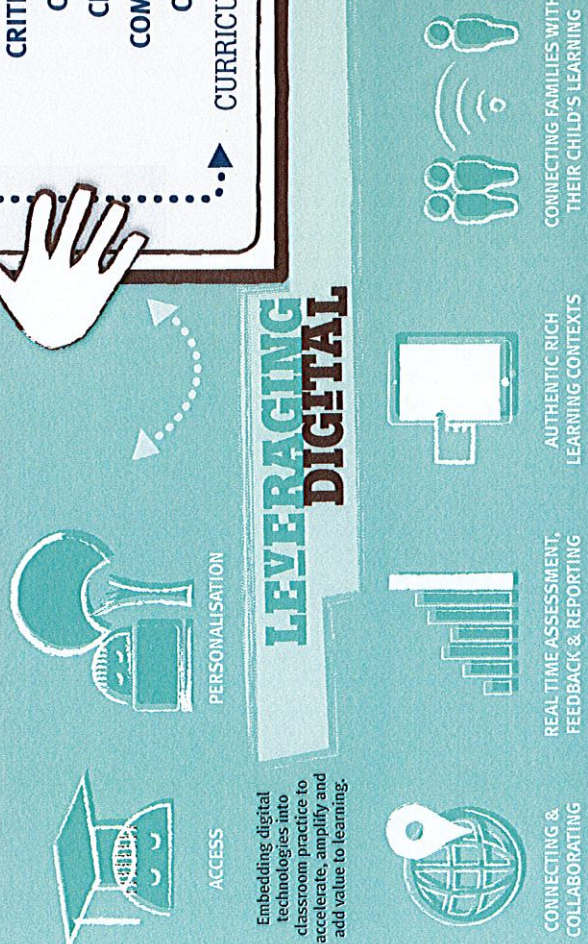
LEARNING PARTNERSHIPS



Changes in how relationships between students, teachers, families and community are conceived and structured.

LEVERAGING DIGITAL

Embedding digital technologies into classroom practice to accelerate, amplify and add value to learning.



LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

A climate and culture for learning – interactive learning environments where students are deeply engaged and motivated.