CURRICULUM

Australian Curriculum
ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) is responsible for the development of the Australian curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 12. All schools in Australia must follow the Australian curriculum.

ACARA’s work in developing the Australian curriculum is guided by the 2008 Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians. The Melbourne Declaration commits "to supporting all young Australians to become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens", and to promoting equity and excellence in education. The Australian curriculum will "equip all young Australians with the essential skills, knowledge and capabilities to thrive and compete in a globalised world and information rich workplaces of the current century." The national curriculum will be accessible to all young Australians, regardless of their social or economic background or the school they attend.

The first phase of the Australian curriculum for English, mathematics, science, and history was introduced in 2012. The second phase for languages, geography and civics and citizenship was introduced in 2013. The third phase includes the other learning areas; technologies, health and physical education and the arts.

Information about the Australian Curriculum can be found at www.acara.edu.au

Catholic School Curriculum
The curriculum of the Catholic School aims to promote the development of students so they can contribute to society from a Christian Gospel perspective. Guided by this vision, the curriculum contributes to the development of each student as a responsible, inner-directed Christian person and someone of Christian virtue who is capable of making genuinely free choices, as well as value judgments enlightened by a formed Christian conscience.

(The Curriculum Framework - Educating our Children to Succeed in the 21st Century)

Information Technology
High priority is given to the use of Information Technology at Notre Dame Catholic Primary School. Information Technology offers exciting and challenging ways of enhancing student learning. IT tools such as Interactive Whiteboards, computers, Apple TV's and iPads, focus teaching and stimulate learning interaction in the classroom, which in turn, can improve student understanding and personal productivity. Information Technology at Notre Dame Catholic Primary School is utilised in the context of meaningful tasks, so enhancing its effectiveness.

Students in Years 4, 5 and 6 have their own laptop computer for use in the classroom and at home and iPads are available for the other year levels.

The one-to-one program has an emphasis on the laptop as a learning tool to foster and promote students with their capability to collaborate, share information, share experiences, work across the domains of our curriculum and to lead students to be able to be self-directed in their learning. Teachers, who have skills and expertise to understand the curriculum that is to be covered, support the program and who are able to ensure that this curriculum is delivered in a manner that engages every child. Our major responsibility in the next few years is not only to provide all students with an appropriate level of access to these tools, but also to change to a new and effective teaching and learning environment that incorporates these new technologies.
Support Education
Support staff cater for those students with individual learning needs. Parents of students with specific learning needs are requested to make an appointment with the Principal to discuss concerns.

Languages
An Italian language program is provided at the school for children in Pre-Primary to Year Six through the Italo-Australian Welfare and Cultural Centre. This programme gives students the opportunity to learn about the culture as well as the language of Italy.

Physical Education and Sport
A physical education teacher is employed at Notre Dame Catholic Primary School to ensure a well-balanced program is provided for the children. Each class has a minimum of 120 minutes per week; one 50 minute physical education lesson covering a whole range of skills, games and activities organised by the specialist teacher, plus one 50 minute sport lesson organised and taken by the class teacher and two fitness sessions during the week.

Included in the sport programme are swimming lessons through the Education Department In-Term Swimming Programme for students in Pre-Primary to Year 6, and associated interschool sporting carnivals including cross country and lightning carnivals.
**Music**

The Music program at Notre Dame Catholic Primary School is committed to ensuring that all students are provided with the opportunity to access music programs consistent with their needs and talents.

The program is designed to promote music appreciation through a wide variety of musical experiences and styles of music.

In 2012, we embarked on the journey of increasing the profile of performing arts within the school by hosting our inaugural school musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. This production was an outstanding success and highlighted the musical talents of our students – whether it was singers, dancers or actors.

Religious music plays an important role in choral singing at school. The students prepare for Mass using a variety of traditional and contemporary hymns and songs.

The choir is an integral part of the music program with students from Years 3-6 selected to participate. Choral singing affords children the opportunity to participate in both liturgical and performance based modes of musical instruction.

The choir rehearses on Wednesday mornings from 8:00am - 8:30am in the multi-purpose room. Involvement in the choir requires a full commitment to attend rehearsals, liturgies and performances.

**Science**

Science is taken as a specialist subject at Notre Dame Catholic Primary School. In the Science Learning Area students learn to investigate, understand and communicate about the physical, biological and technological world and value the processes that support life on our planet. Science helps students to become critical thinkers by encouraging them to use evidence to evaluate the use of science in society and the application of science in daily life. The *Primary Connections Programme* is used to develop students’ skills of working scientifically, as they undertake investigations and communicate their understanding about science.
History
As part of the school's implementation of the Australian Curriculum, history is taken as a specialist area at Notre Dame Catholic Primary School. Awareness of history is an essential characteristic of any society, as historical knowledge is fundamental to understanding ourselves and others. It helps students appreciate how the world and its people have changed, as well as the significant continuities that exist to the present day.

History, at Notre Dame, is taken as a disciplined process of inquiry into the past that develops students' curiosity and imagination. This process of historical inquiry develops transferable skills, such as the ability to ask relevant questions; critically analyse and interpret sources; consider context; respect and explain different perspectives; develop and substantiate interpretations, and communicate effectively. By the end of their primary school years, students will have developed an understanding of Australian society from Aboriginal migration forty thousand years ago, through colonization to present day Australia.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Social Worker
A Social Worker is available to work with children experiencing emotional or social difficulties in the classroom. This may be on a one–one basis or in the context of the delivering of a class programme in collaboration with the class teacher. Access to the Social Worker is through the class teacher.

Dental Care
The Carlisle Dental Therapy Centre services the school.

Learning and Special Education Support
Specialist personnel are available from the Catholic Education Office to assist teachers with assessments and specialised programs. Please see the Curriculum Coordinator for further information.

School Nurse
A community nurse visits Notre Dame Catholic Primary School regularly. Parents wishing to make an appointment need to fill out a referral form held in the school office.