



PREP YEAR

OUR CURRICULUM

Our 'Purpose Statement' is:

'To glorify God, through Christ-centred education, that helps children develop their God given potential.'

Christian education begins with the centrality of God at the heart of all things. Christian education will, through every subject, disclose the character of God. It will through every subject inspire love, gratitude, worship and praise of God, who is truth and knowledge, the very Word itself. Biblical perspective is the interpretative lens through which all teaching and learning is conducted. Christian education intentionally and explicitly cultivates biblical literacy and understanding, moral reflection and discipleship. Christian education teaches a way of living. It inspires students to follow Christ every day through all that is done and taught through the partnering between parents, children and the school community.

As a Christian school to achieve our purpose, we have a commitment to our 'Quality Statements'

- ✓ Quality Environment
- ✓ Quality Learning
- ✓ Quality Achievement
- ✓ Quality Management

Our teaching and learning programs are informed by the 'Australian Curriculum'. Through a biblical worldview, we cover the eight learning areas. In addition, *Christian Life Studies*, our school choice, is a major focus and is embedded throughout to deepen each child's understanding of the Bible and Christianity.

Included in the content of learning areas are seven 'General Capabilities' intended to help prepare young Australians to learn, live and work in society. There are three 'Cross-Curriculum Priorities' that are also a focus across the learning areas.



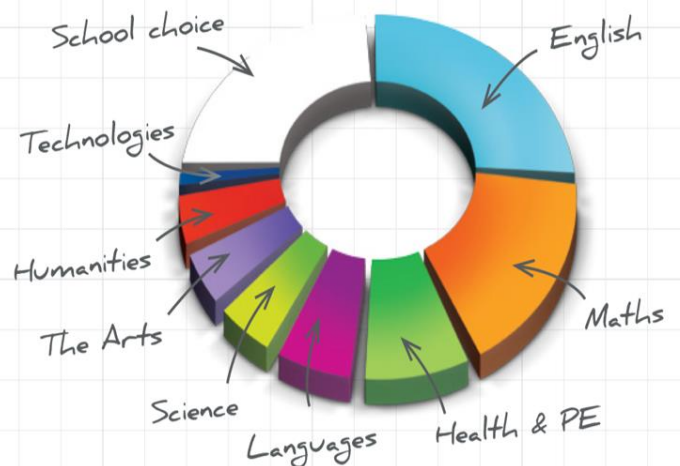
THE FIRST YEAR OF SCHOOL

In their first year of school, students learn through teaching interactions with others, experimentation, practice and play in the classroom and school community.

Priority is given to literacy and numeracy development as these are the foundations upon which further learning is built. Opportunities to develop literacy and numeracy are found in all subjects but particularly in English and Mathematics. Learning in a classroom and belonging to a school community are key to the first year at school. As you join us in this learning journey, we invite you to partner with us through participation in our:

- Information Session
- Parents as Partners
- Literacy Workshop

Foundation Year Learning Areas



www.heathdale.vic.edu.au



Christian Life Studies

“The Word of God is the cornerstone upon which all Christian education is built. In Christian Life Studies our students develop their knowledge and love of God through prayerful reading and reflection upon the Bible. It is through this study of the Gospel that we open our hearts to the Holy Spirit to work spiritual and moral transformation within us.”

Throughout the year, your child will have the opportunity to learn about:

- God and His world
- A troubled world and God’s remedy
- Jesus, God’s Son, is always with us
- Jesus cares for people
- Responding to Jesus and God
- People in God’s unfolding plan
- God’s plan fulfilled

English

“Language is one of the primary mediums through which we know God, receive and interpret His will, express our love and worship of Him, and engage in His mission in the world. All things begin and hold together through the Word of His son, and God entrusts us with the gift of language so that we may remain in loving communion with Him and others.”

In the first year of school, students view, listen to and enjoy texts that entertain and inform, such as picture books or, rhymes. They begin to learn to read and create texts. Your child will have the opportunity to:

- Communicate with others in familiar situations
- Read stories with one or more sentences, pictures and familiar vocabulary
- Recognise rhyming words, syllables and sounds
- Recognise letters and the most common sounds that letters make
- Listen to, read and view picture books, stories, poetry, information books, films and performances
- Write words, sentences and construct simple texts
- Recognise some words and develop skills in phonics in ‘sounding out’ words
- Create their own texts such as giving information orally or in writing; presenting a narrative, which may include pictures.

‘**Learning Enhancement**’ offer a ‘Reading Readiness Program’ as Literacy intervention for students having difficulties with phonemic awareness. The program usually lasts for 10 weeks, and by then the student is able to participate effectively in the Prep Program.

Mathematics



“Mathematics is one of the languages of God’s creation. Through the discipline of Mathematics we can better understand God, and draw closer to Him in relationship that has been restored through Jesus Christ.”

In the first year of school, students develop a sense of number, order, sequence, pattern and position in relation to familiar settings.

Your child will have the opportunity to:

- Connect numbers, their names and quantities up to 20
 - Count numbers in sequences up to 20, continue patterns and compare lengths of objects
 - Use materials to model problems, sort objects and discuss answers
- Group and sort shapes and objects
 - Connect events with days of the week
 - Develop an understanding of location words, such as above, outside, left and right.

Science

"To study Science is to approach the mind of God. As the creator and sustainer of all that is and ever will be, creation offers an insight into God's nature and will. Before the majesty of creation we stand in wonder, awe, and praise."

Through exploration and observation, students learn how science works. They explore their world to find answers to questions. Your child will have the opportunity to explore/investigate:

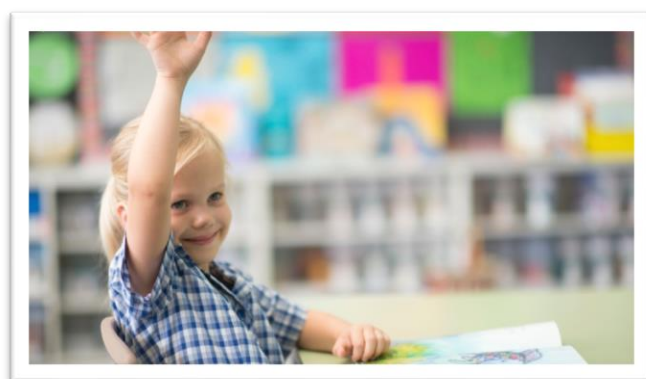
- Biological Sciences** – the needs of living things
- Chemical Sciences** – the properties of everyday materials
- Physical Sciences** – how things move
- Earth and Space Sciences** – changes in our world, for example, the weather

Humanities and Social Sciences

"Living as faithful Christians relies upon understanding and engaging with the social and cultural context in which we live. Just as God became incarnate in Christ, He calls us to be active disciples who are engaged in the world to bring forth His Kingdom."

By experimenting, practising and playing in familiar situations, students use their natural curiosity to make sense of their world, and to develop history and geography knowledge and skills about people and places. Your child will have the opportunity to learn about:

- Explore their personal world, including personal and family histories
- Investigate places they and their families live in and belong to
- Find out about other places through stories told in books, or by family members and other people and how people feel about places
- Explore why places are special and how students and other people can care for places



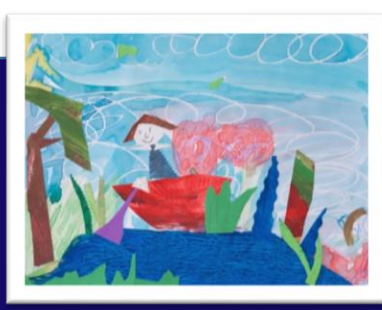
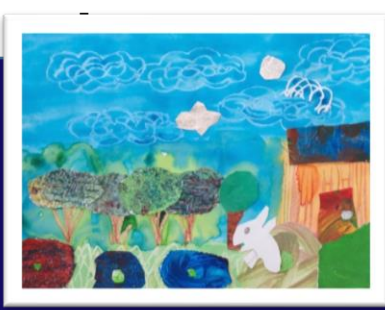
Health and Physical Education

"Our body, mind, and soul are sacred trusts from God that must be treated with reverence, purity and gratitude. God has imprinted us with His image, and calls us to His service in the world."

Students learn through active play, and practise fundamental movement skills. They learn about how their body is growing and changing, about their strengths, how to be healthy, safe and active, and about respectful relationships with others. Your child will have the opportunity to:

- Use their strength to help others
- Name trusted people in their community, who can help them stay safe and healthy
- Describe emotions of people who are happy, sad, excited, tired, angry, scared or confused
- Group foods into 'eat always' and 'eat sometimes'
- Move in different speeds and directions, be aware of others and follow rules
- Play games from different cultures
- Move in time with a partner when music played.





The Arts

"Beauty reflects the nature of the Divine. Art is at the heart of understanding, worship, and love of God. Creative talents are gifts of God, honed so that they can better glorify Him through artistic expression."

Students share their experiences and understanding of themselves through exploring the arts and artworks.

- Drama – use role play to act out familiar events or stories
- Dance – watch others dance and respect those around them when they are dancing
- Media Arts – use programs such as Kidpix to work with images and sounds
- Music – explore sounds when listening, singing and making music
- Visual Arts – respond to and create a variety of artworks such as drawing and painting.

Technologies

"Technology, and the human ingenuity that conceives it, are gifts of God. It is only because of the grace of God and the character of His providence in Creation that technological design and innovation is possible. God calls us to the righteous employment of technology to honour Him and serve others."

Through exploration, design and problem-solving, students learn how technologies work.

Design and Technologies

- Design and create solutions to challenges through guided play and by safely using materials and equipment

Digital Technologies

- Work safely in the computer, represent data as pictures, symbols and diagrams, and sequence steps to solve simple problems.



Languages

"The understanding and praise of God transcends any one language, and His redemptive mission reaches beyond all cultural barriers. The Bible itself has been written and translated into innumerable languages and dialects. Through the study of language we work toward the day when the glory of God is confessed from every tongue."

Students have the opportunity to learn French. Your child will have the opportunity to:

- Imitate sounds, rhythms and patterns in French
- Use simple words and phrases, and non-verbal communication strategies in familiar situations
- Read and write simple words with visual support.





PREP YEAR - Special Events/Activities and Extra-Curricular Activities

Sport Activities

- Swimming Program
- Club – Basketball (after school option)
- Club – Netball (after school option)

The Arts

- String – Violin (selected students)
- Private Music Lessons (parent requested)
- Annual Primary School Music Concert (selected students)
- Presentation Night

Events

- Excursions & Incursions
 - The Farm
 - Traffic School
- Book Week
- Literacy and Numeracy Week

PREP YEAR - Key Reminders

(Please refer to the Junior School Handbook for more detail)

Attendance and Punctuality

- Students are expected to arrive by 8.30am and be ready at the classroom for an 8.35am start.
- Collection – Students are to be collected at 3.10pm from their class teacher at the end of the day. Any other arrangements such as, sending an alternative person to collect your child, need to be in writing.
- When arriving late or departing early from school you need to scan your child’s student card in the ELC foyer and bring the receipt to your child’s teacher.
- If you need to pick up your child early you will also need to scan your child’s student card in the Primary School Office and bring the receipt to the teacher.
- Email werribeeprimary@heathdale.vic.edu.au for notification of late/early departure
- Absences – Email absent@heathdale.vic.edu.au for all student absences
- First Aid – Please see Head of School if your child has a life-threatening condition requiring an Action Plan. All medications to be administered at school are to be sent directly to the First Aid Room.

Communication

- Reports are sent home at the end of Terms 2 and 4
- Parent teacher interviews are scheduled 3 times a year.
- Additional meetings may be requested via appointment through administration.

Food

- Supply snack and lunch (wrapper free)
- Supply bottle of water
- Canteen orders – online via college website prior to 9:00am Pre ordering will start in March and is ONLY AVAILABLE FOR PREPS ON TUESDAYS

Homework

- Requirements – located in the front of your child’s homework display book and homework book (during terms 3 and 4 only).
- Sent home Monday and due Friday (Terms 3 and 4 only)
- Reading Record – update each night
- Show and Tell – prepare in advance as per the class roster.

Notes
