

LEARNING AND TEACHING POLICY

Purpose

Damascus College is a dynamic Christ-centred learning community committed to a culture of excellence that inspires students, develops staff, and values parents and families - and in so doing, encourages all to reach their potential and place in wider society.

The College is an integral part of the broader Catholic community in the Ballarat diocese. It provides progressive and innovative learning and teaching that maximise educational outcomes for all students. Damascus College is committed to quality professional learning for staff, to developing self-directed students inspired by high expectations, and to quality educational outcomes that are measured and evaluated (Damascus College Strategic Plan).

Damascus College will provide all students and staff with learning opportunities that expand knowledge, skills and abilities through participation in a broad range of activities both within and beyond the school setting.

Scope

This policy applies to all learning and teaching opportunities that are offered through the Damascus College community.

Definitions

Learning is the process of acquiring and embedding new skills, knowledge, values and attitudes.

Teaching is the facilitation of purposeful and inclusive learning experiences.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of Damascus College that it will:

- deliver learning and teaching that reflects its Catholic identity and Mercy heritage, with a focus on student wellbeing and ability to learn;
- deliver curriculum that is planned, documented, regularly evaluated and compliant with statutory requirements;
- collect, analyse and use appropriate learning data to improve student learning outcome;
- within the capacity of the College, provide diverse learning opportunities that address students' affinities and learning needs; reflecting their experiences, knowledge, abilities, skills, interests and learning styles;
- promote and provide student assessment and reporting that focuses on the uniqueness of each individual, considering their dignity, self-worth and their learning growth;
- promote an environment where excellence and endeavour are celebrated, and positive relationships within the school community are developed;
- provide staff opportunities to undertake professional learning and;
- provide appropriate staff support in the formative implementation of newly acquired knowledge and skills
- actively build partnerships between the school, home and the community to support successful learning and teaching; and
- make available to the school community information concerning the school's performance at least once a year



Consequences

- The Catholic ethos and Mercy heritage will permeate all learning and teaching;
- students and staff will develop their capacity to become compassionate citizens who contribute to the global community;
- students and staff will explore new and innovative approaches in learning and teaching;
- staff will equip students to foster an environment where self-directed students assume greater progressive responsibility for their own lifelong learning and pathways planning;
- learning will be enriched by the implementation of contemporary information and communication technology tools;
- Damascus College will celebrate the achievements and endeavours of the school community;
- teaching staff will collaboratively plan, document, implement and evaluate learning and teaching programs through formal and informal practice;
- the College will encourage evidence-based approaches to inform practices that improve student outcomes and to refine their own practice as well as meet regulatory requirements.
- teaching staff will provide students and families with accurate and timely feedback that acknowledges achievement and guides future growth;
- a professional learning model that promotes collaboration through formal (e.g. planned meetings and professional development sessions) and informal (e.g. professional readings, discussions and reflection) professional learning activities to enable them to enhance their role.
- all staff will participate in a Professional Growth Plan focused on a formative approach to personal and professional growth that complies with VIT and VRQA requirements and is in line with the College's Strategic Directions;
- parents, guardians and the broader community will be encouraged to be partners in learning and teaching;
- Damascus College will implement and comply with all mandated policies and regulations pertaining to teaching and learning.

Responsibilities

The Principal and Leadership Team are responsible for the implementation of this policy.

Associated Documents

Disability Discrimination Act

Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)

Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF)

Awakenings

Catholic Education Curriculum of Victoria (CECV) Curriculum Documentation

Damascus College Strategic Directions 2016-2020

Damascus College website – www.damascus.vic.edu.au

Damascus College Handbook

Department of Education and Training website Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA)

Disability Standards for Education 2005 (the Standards)

Guidelines to the Minimum Standards and Requirements for School Registration (VRQA)

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD)

Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA)

Victorian Teaching Institute (VIT) Professional Standards