

# Oxley Christian College

## Junior School Curriculum Overview



## Vision Statement

To delight in God's love through inspired learning.

## Mission Statement

To provide an education for excellence within a Biblical Christian worldview.

## Junior School Curriculum Overview



Principal  
Douglas Peck

The curriculum at Oxley Christian College is dynamic and seeks to inspire young people to actively pursue learning opportunities in diverse areas. The content of this booklet changes regularly as our dedicated staff review the breadth and depth of our subject offerings.

Good schools have in mind a variety of goals when they determine their curriculum. A key focus at Oxley is on the development of student knowledge, skills and understandings. A second focus is on maximising student outcomes in measurable ways. Some of the most valuable aspects of education are however, not easily measured. At Oxley we are interested in educating mind, body and soul. We believe that many fields of academic endeavour and recreation have intrinsic worth and it is our desire to share this insight with our students.

Our spacious campus continues to develop as a wonderful environment for learning. We enjoy excellent specialist facilities supporting Music and the Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Physical Education, Sport and Environmental Studies. Our students appreciate their learning environment and enjoy a peaceful atmosphere in beautiful, carefully maintained grounds.

This booklet is intended to provide a brief overview of the curriculum and specialist programs available in the Junior School.

We commend an Oxley education to prospective families. The College is small enough for us to know every student, yet large enough to offer the diverse range of subjects represented in this booklet. Our teachers are dedicated and supportive and our community is marked by warm and life-affirming relationships. We look forward to your interest in joining the College and a potential enrolment offer.





## Love of Learning. Learning for Life.



Head of Junior School  
Sharee Gaiser

Instilling in our students a love of learning is a high priority for staff at Oxley. In both formal and informal settings, students are engaged in meaningful learning, taking an active role in setting goals, taking risks and reflecting on their progress. They are encouraged and supported to transfer their skills, knowledge and understandings to situations in our local community and the world beyond. Students at Oxley are learning for life.

### Our Curriculum

At Oxley, we provide purposeful opportunities for students to take increased responsibility for their own learning. We place great emphasis on nurturing skills and attitudes such as resourcefulness, resilience and co-operation through a Biblical world view. Our teachers bring the Australian Curriculum alive by making links between core subjects and inquiry based units of work.

The Junior School offers a rich, sequential program with a strong focus on the key subjects of English and Mathematics. Our rigorous curriculum provides a foundation for each student's future learning, personal growth and active participation in the Australian community.

Our talented staff support learning and build each student's knowledge, skills and understanding in core learning areas. Learning is further enhanced through Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Health and Christian Studies.

Students supplement their core subjects with classes in Information Technology, Music, Art, Drama, Physical Education, Chinese and Library, all of which are taught by specialist teachers. In preparation for the Senior School, students also acquire skills in research, critical thinking, problem solving, report writing and oral presentations.

Each Junior School student receives a comprehensive twice-yearly report, which includes information on student achievement for all subject areas.

# Teaching and Learning

## Building Foundations

The highly-respected Prep program provides an outstanding year of structured learning activities. Our caring and experienced staff provide a developmentally appropriate program which fosters self-esteem, confidence and a love of learning. The program is dynamic and designed to give children an engaging and supportive start to school.

A love of reading is actively nurtured at all Junior School levels, beginning with a unique reading program in the Prep Year. Mathematical thinking is also introduced in Prep, through a program of engaging and stimulating number-based activities.

As students transition through the Junior School, they are supported in their learning and engaged in meaningful and targeted learning tasks.

## School and Home

Oxley is committed to building strong partnerships between home and school. We encourage two-way dialogue and support this through parent evenings, informative workshops, curriculum information, student diaries and invitations to many of our assemblies. We also believe that homework can help reinforce the content learned at school. We have a carefully structured homework program which includes a major focus on reading for enjoyment.

## Student Wellbeing

At Oxley, from Prep to Year 12, students enjoy friendly and respectful relationships with their teachers and peers. We learn what it means to serve others and work collaboratively as part of a team. We do our utmost to foster open communication within a safe and positive environment. We learn about the importance of building trust and of being trustworthy.

A school-wide buddy program fosters cross-age relationships and the Christian values of caring for others, friendliness, respect, valuing difference, including others and responsibility. All Junior School students learn these values through formal and informal activities.

All staff are committed to the personal and spiritual wellbeing of their students, offering support and direction whenever they are needed. Home Group Teachers, Year Level Coordinators and the College Chaplain are available to provide guidance and support.

## Inclusive Education

The Inclusive Education Department has a team of specialist teachers and assistants who support teachers to cater for students with special educational needs in their classrooms. They may be students who experience learning difficulties and/or students requiring extension.

Inclusive Education staff work closely with parents, teachers, external specialists and the students to identify those with special needs, and to plan and implement intervention. Programs vary from year to year, depending on the individual needs of the students involved. The Inclusive Education Department comprises two separate programs. The Links program addresses the needs of students with learning difficulties, while the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program addresses the needs of students who are recognised as academically gifted and/or talented.







## Environmental Education

All Junior School students participate in a rich program which fosters opportunities to learn about God's creation. Students develop skills to investigate and solve issues in the environment within our purpose-built 'Enviro Barn' and school garden. We encourage the development of a positive attitude toward God's creation and care of the environment and support students as they adopt behaviours and practices which protect the world around us. Through a range of practical activities, including planting and harvesting, students build their understanding of the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

## Camping Program

Oxley offers students from Years 2 to 6 the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience through a sequential camping program which reinforces and extends classroom learning. Our programs promote independence, resilience, leadership, cooperation and a greater awareness of our environment.

Year 2: Overnight sleepover in the Oxley Junior School

Year 4: Mill Valley Ranch. The camp includes horse riding lessons, outdoor activities, animal care, habitats, investigating the lifestyle and culture of Indigenous Australians and the life of early Australian settlers.

Year 5: Sovereign Hill, Ballarat. Students participate in the costume school and learn about the life and times of early Australians during the Gold Rush.

Year 6: Canberra. Students explore our political past and modern democracy in our nation's capital.

## Student Leadership

Students in Years 4 - 6 have the opportunity to serve the school community and develop their leadership skills. When students are actively involved in decision making, they demonstrate an enhanced sense of commitment to the school and its programs. Encouraging student leadership ensures we develop our leaders of the future.

Home Group Captains are elected by our student body and participate in class meetings and our Student Forum. Selected students in Year 6 are appointed to the positions of Junior School Captains, Vice-Captains, House Captains and Music Captain.

To nurture an understanding of God's creation and sustainability, selected students from Prep to Year 6 serve as Enviro Captains. These students demonstrate care for both our school environment and the world around us. They promote behaviours and practices, such as the need to reduce, reuse and recycle, across the school and attend monthly meetings to discuss environmentally based initiatives.



# Specialist Programs

## Christian Studies

One of our most important aims is the spiritual development of our students. Students are passionate about issues that affect their lives and, through our Bible-based activities, we endeavour to nurture their understanding of the world and the issues that they face. Our day begins with Home Group, where students share in a time of reflection and prayer, praying for personal needs and community issues. At our weekly Chapel services, there are opportunities for student participation in worship, personal testimonies, film and drama. Chapel provides an excellent framework through which scriptural values are woven into school life.

## Library

The Library curriculum is aligned with the Australian Curriculum and both supports and enhances classroom learning experiences. Explicit teaching of research skills for History, Geography and Science and the literacies associated with these texts, the critiquing of multi modal texts (such as picture fiction, video clips, artwork), studies of texts with indigenous themes and literature appreciation, are key areas of study. The development of students' digital literacy skills is also given high priority.

Additional activities include: Premier's Reading Challenge, National Simultaneous Storytime and Library and Information Week. Book Week is always an exciting event and students participate in author, illustrator and drama incursions. A special Book Week Chapel is an opportunity to directly focus on Christian perspectives and values as they are revealed through literature.

## Chinese

The study of a Language Other Than English (LOTE) is studied by all students in Years 1 to 6. LOTE at Oxley provides opportunities for students to learn about Chinese culture and gain confidence in using the Chinese (Mandarin) language in its written and spoken form.

## Performing Arts

We offer students many opportunities to develop in the Performing Arts. Classes are held in our beautiful Broadley Performing Arts Centre. All students in Prep to Year 6 participate in both Music and Drama classes as part of their classroom curriculum and can join our Junior School Choir. Students will also have an opportunity to be part of our annual musical production.

## Year 2 Strings Program

All students in Year 2 will have the opportunity to learn to play a stringed instrument (violin, viola or cello). Students are taught their chosen stringed instrument in small groups and in a full class ensemble. Parents are invited to attend performances to witness their child's musical development.

## Private Instrumental Music

Oxley offers students private instrumental study in piano, woodwind, strings, brass, percussion, guitar and voice. Students attend their private instrumental lesson on one day each week using rotating lesson timetables, ensuring they do not miss the same subject each week. Students participating in this program have an opportunity to perform on their instrument at our annual Soiree evenings and in various ensembles.







## Physical Education

Our Health and Physical Education program provides the basis for developing knowledge, understanding and skills to enable students to lead healthy, safe and active lives. We learn how our body moves and enjoy a range of activities both outdoors and in our excellent Stadium.

## Inter-House Sport

Students in Middle and Upper Primary levels participate in swimming, athletics, cross country and basketball competitions. The Houses competing in Inter-House competitions are Gibeon Warriors (Red), Tabor Trojans (White) and Zion Crusaders (Blue).

## Inter-School Sport

Oxley Junior School is a member of the School Sport Victoria, Mooroolbark District. Years 5 and 6 students compete in team sports against other schools in our District.

## District, Division & Regional Sport

Selected students in Years 4 to 6 also have the opportunity to qualify for events at the District, Division and Regional levels in cross country, swimming and athletics.

## Art

The Junior School Art program encourages students to express their own observations, ideas, feelings and knowledge of God's world and appreciate their own work or those of traditional or contemporary artists. Students are encouraged to use their imagination through the creating and making process and to selectively use and arrange different art materials.

Students will learn to develop new skills and techniques whilst using the art elements and language to explore and discuss a range of different art forms. At times, art themes may be integrated with a classroom unit, providing a rich learning experience as students express themselves through different media. The Art program includes the exploration of the following art forms: painting, drawing, clay, construction, printing, textiles, collage and sculpture.







# OXLEY

## CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Pre-School to Year 12 | Phone: 9727 9900 | [www.oxley.vic.edu.au](http://www.oxley.vic.edu.au)