



OXLEY
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



JUNIOR SCHOOL

Curriculum Handbook

Vision Statement

To delight in God's love through inspired learning

Mission Statement

To provide an education for excellence within
a Biblical Christian worldview

From the Principal



Principal
Dr 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
Amy Liddle

Instilling in 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 beyond the classroom, both in our local community and the world beyond. Students at Oxley are learning for life.

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 a global community.

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

Students supplement their learning with classes in Digital Technology, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Physical Education, Chinese and Library. In preparation for the Senior School, students acquire skills in research, critical thinking, design and technology, problem solving and oral presentations.

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



A photograph of two young students, a boy and a girl, looking at a geometric diagram on a board. The boy is pointing at a red circle with a purple triangle inscribed in it. The girl is looking on. The background is a whiteboard with some faint writing.

Teaching & Learning

Building Foundations

The highly respected Prep program provides an outstanding year of structured learning. 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 and writing is actively nurtured at all Junior School levels, beginning with a unique and supportive 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 experiences.

School and Home

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

Student Wellbeing

Students enjoy friendly and respectful relationships with teachers and peers. We learn what it means to serve others and work collaboratively as members of a Christian community. 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 all students, offering support and direction whenever they are needed. Home Group Teachers, Year Level Coordinators, the College Chaplain and Psychologist are available to provide guidance and support.

Learning Enhancement

The Learning Enhancement Department has a team of specialist teachers and assistants who support teachers to cater for students with differing needs. They may be students who experience learning difficulties and/or students requiring extension.

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

Horizons programs in Literacy or Numeracy, are offered to selected students. These programs foster in-depth explorations and higher order thinking in like-ability small groups.

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. We 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 3 to 6 the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience through a sequential camping program which reinforces and extends learning in all curriculum areas.

Our programs promote independence, resilience, leadership, teamwork, cooperation and the value of shared experiences.

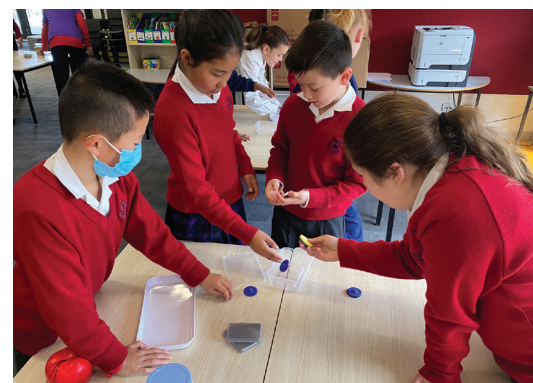
- **Year 2:** Late night program at the College
- **Year 3:** Overnight sleepover at the College
- **Year 4:** Mill Valley Ranch – The camp includes horse riding lessons, outdoor activities, animal care, habitats, investigating the lifestyle and culture of Indigenous Australians and the life of early Australian settlers.
- **Year 5 and 6:** Sovereign Hill, Ballarat – Students participate in the costume school and learn about the life and times of early Australians during the Gold Rush (Even Year). Canberra – Students explore our political past and modern democracy in our nation's capital (Odd Year).

Student Leadership

Students in all levels actively serve the school community and develop their leadership skills. When students are dynamically involved in decision making, they demonstrate an enhanced sense of commitment to the school and its programs. Encouraging student leadership ensures we develop the leaders of the future.

Home Group Captains are elected by our student body and participate in class meetings and the Student Forum. Selected students in Year 6 are appointed to the positions of Junior School Captain, Vice-Captain, House Captain or Performing Arts 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 all 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, the sharing of 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, research and critical thinking skills are also given high priority.

Additional activities include: Premiers' 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

Languages in addition to English are studied. In Years 1 to 6, all students study Chinese (Mandarin). Students are provided the opportunity to learn about the Chinese culture and gain confidence in using the Chinese language in its written and spoken form. Learning about another culture enables students to gain a more profound understanding of their own culture.

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 have two lessons each week – in one, they are taught their stringed instrument in small groups and in the other, they work as 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.

Health & Physical Education

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

As part of our Health and Personal Development Curriculum, students will participate in The Me Tree program, which gives students a positive sense of identity and from that place, assists them to develop resilience and a growth mindset. Students are empowered to use their unique attributes to positively impact the community and world around them.

Swimming Lessons

All students participate in an annual swimming program. The program for Prep – Year 2 students is aimed at water safety and stroke development. For students in Year 3 – 6, the program focuses on the consolidation of strokes and survival techniques.

Inter-House Sport

All students in Primary levels participate in athletics and cross-country competitions. Students in Middle and Upper Primary levels participate in swimming 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. In Semester 1, Years 5 and 6 students compete in team sports against other schools in our District. Successful teams progress to higher competitions.

District, Division & Regional Sport

Selected students in Year 3 to 6 also can qualify for events at the District, Division and Regional levels in cross country swimming and athletics.

There is also opportunity for elite students to be selected in a State squad for a number of different sports such as; Australian Rules Football, Badminton, Baseball, Basketball, Bowls, Cricket, Diving, Soccer, Golf, Hockey, Netball, Rugby League, Softball, Surfing, Table Tennis Tee Ball, Tennis, Touch Football and Volleyball.





Specialist Programs

DigiTech

The Digital Technologies curriculum enables students to become confident and creative developers of digital solutions through the application of information systems and specific ways of thinking about problem solving.

Students acquire a deep knowledge and understanding of digital systems, data and information and the processes associated with creating digital solutions. This enables them to take up an active role in meeting current and future needs.

The teaching of DigiTech in our Junior School is completed in two main ways. The first is through the general classroom environment where the use of digital technologies is integrated into the everyday day classroom as a tool for learning. The second is through a specialist subject focusing on developing the skills of coding and robotics.

Students have access to the following devices:

- Prep – iPads
- Years 1 to 3 – Surface Laptop SE
- Years 4 to 6 – personal Surface Go 3

E-safety is of utmost importance and a major priority at the College. In 2023, students will participate in the Inform & Empower digital safety & wellbeing program. Students in Years 1 to 6 will tune in to live streamed incursions that focus on healthy and safe digital habits every term. These sessions aim to help students better navigate the online world and become more aware, clever, brave and kind. They will focus on topics including navigating unwanted contact, cyberbullying, help-seeking strategies, unsafe content, balancing screen time with "green time," and sharing personal information. While Prep students do not participate in live streamed sessions, they will be exploring the basics of the online world through guided activities.





Performing Arts

We offer students many opportunities to develop in the Performing Arts. Classes are held in our well-resourced Broadley Performing Arts Centre. All students from Prep to Year 6 participate in both Music and Drama classes as part of the classroom curriculum. Students in Year 3 to 6 have an opportunity to join our Junior School Choirs. The students learning a string instrument are invited to join our Junior String Ensembles. Students in Year 5 to 6 also have an opportunity to join our Junior Percussion Ensemble. All Junior students are part of our exciting annual musical production.

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.





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