



Curriculum Handbook

YEAR 7 2026





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Introduction

From our Principal - Lila McInerney

At Mercy College, we continue to cultivate a culture that promotes deep and purposeful learning. Guided by the Vision for Instruction from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, we believe that “Every student is inspired and enabled to flourish and enrich the world”. This vision reflects our commitment to nurturing students who are curious, capable, and confident in their pursuit of knowledge and personal growth.



Dear Parents/ Guardians and Students,

Year 7 marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter in your child’s educational journey. It is a time to lay the foundations for strong learning habits, personal growth, and life skills that will be built upon in the years ahead. At Mercy College, we are committed to creating an environment where students feel a deep sense of belonging and purpose, and where they are supported to flourish in their learning.

The Year 7 Curriculum Handbook is a valuable resource for students and families. It outlines the key requirements and expectations of Year 7 study and provides an overview of the subjects that form part of the compulsory learning program. These subjects are based on the Victorian Curriculum and are designed to support students in developing essential knowledge, skills, and understandings as they begin their secondary education.

Our classrooms are vibrant, student-centred spaces that encourage creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. They are technology-rich and designed to foster meaningful discussion and engagement. The Year 7 curriculum offers a balanced and comprehensive selection of subjects that challenge students to explore deep questions and big ideas, helping them to make sense of their lives, the world around them, and their place within it.

At Mercy College, curriculum design is purposeful and responsive to the needs of our learners and their local context. We encourage students to engage in dialogue with tradition and contemporary society, developing the capacity to interpret their experiences through the lens of faith, culture, and community. This integration of life, learning, and spirituality is central to the Catholic educational mission and supports students in becoming thoughtful, empathetic, and active contributors to society.

The learning experience in Year 7 is enriched by our wellbeing program, co-curricular activities, and whole-school cultural, sporting, and religious celebrations. These opportunities help students build confidence, form friendships, and develop a strong sense of identity and community.

Mercy College is committed to the principles of Australian democracy and the values of Australian schooling. As Laureate Professor John Hattie reminds us, “Expert teaching should be by design, not chance.” Our teachers, guided by the AITSL standards, are dedicated to designing learning experiences that are meaningful, engaging, and grounded in Catholic beliefs within a global context.

We believe in the importance of strong partnerships between home and school. The support and involvement of families are vital to the academic and wellbeing growth of every student.

We look forward to working together with you as we guide our students through this important first year of secondary school, helping them to realise their potential and take confident steps toward a bright future.

Lila McInerney
College Principal

Subjects

Students undertake a range of compulsory subjects. Compulsory subjects are either for a full year (two semesters) or semester length (two terms).

At Mercy College, Year 7 students undertake seven compulsory year-long subjects and six semester length compulsory subjects.

In 2026, all Year 7 students will study the following:

Full Year Subjects

Religious Education

English

Health and Physical Education

Humanities

Mathematics

Science

STEM

Semester Length Subjects

Languages: Indonesian

Languages: Italian

Art

Performing Arts

Food Studies

Music

Assessments and Reporting

Student assessment seeks to promote a positive attitude towards learning and to encourage the pursuit of personal excellence. It gives students advice on what they have done well and suggests strategies for further improvement. As such, assessment practices at Mercy College focus upon the positive aspects of student learning and provide the basis for further learning. Subject teachers, Learning and Wellbeing Leaders and Learning Area Leaders, continually monitor student performance and progress within the classroom.

A variety of assessment practices are embedded into the Year 7 curriculum, which are highlighted on each subject page. All the assessment practices, plus observations, provide the basis on which teachers report student progress.

Learner Expectation Reports

Learner Expectation Reports are designed to provide feedback on a range of areas related to a student's learning, study habits and overall progress. These reports are made available to families during Terms One and Three, prior to Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences.

Semester Reports

Semester reports are designed to provide feedback on a range of areas related to a student's learning across all subjects studied during the semester. These reports also provide an overview of the College's Wellbeing Program and feedback related to each student's overall approach to learning and their involvement in College events and co-curricular activities.



*Full Year
Subjects*

Religious Education

The Year 7 Religious Education program at Mercy College is based on Coming to Know, Worship and Love; the Religious Education Framework published by the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Religious Education in Year 7 focuses on the student's ability to engage in dialogue with the Catholic tradition, the issues of the day and the students' understanding of themselves and their faith as a developing young person.

There are three strands of learning in Religious Education: Knowledge and Understanding – seeking truth; Reasoning and Responding – making meaning and Personal and Communal Engagement – the living story of faith alongside others.

During Religious Education lessons in Year 7, students investigate what it means to be part of the Mercy College community, they engage with Scripture - both Old and New Testaments, they explore the Sacraments and find meaning through understanding morality and their role in caring for creation in a deeper and more sustainable way.

Duration of study:

- Full year

Topics Studied:

- Belonging to the Mercy Community
- Stations of the Cross
- The Liturgical Year and the Word of God
- Hebrew Scriptures
- The Christian Scriptures
- The Eucharist
- The Way we Live (Morality Education)
- Caring for Creation

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Small and large group discussions
- Written responses
- Research assignments and presentations
- Analysis of issues
- Investigations of specific areas of interest
- Liturgy preparation

English

The English curriculum is built around the three interrelated strands of Language, Literature and Literacy. Together the strands focus on developing students' knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating.

Students engage with a variety of texts for enjoyment. They listen to, read, view, interpret, evaluate and perform a range of spoken, written and multimodal texts in which the primary purpose is aesthetic, as well as texts designed to inform and persuade.

Students develop their understanding of how texts, including media texts, are influenced by context, purpose and audience. Students create a range of imaginative, informative and persuasive types of texts.

Duration of study:

- Full year

Topics Studied in Semester One:

- What is English, the subject?
- Analysing and Presenting Argument: Persuasive language
- Viewing and Creating: Film study

Topics Studied in Semester Two:

- Reading and Creating: A personal response
- Reading and Creating: Novel study
- Reading and Creating: Poetry Unit

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Writer's notebook personal response
- Analytical text response essay
- Creative response to a text
- Reading comprehension activities
- Persuasive essay
- Oral book report

Health and Physical Education

Year 7 Physical Education aims to encourage life-long participation in physical activity. Students will develop and refine a range of movement and manipulative skills through participation in a variety of team and individual games and activities. These activities, including swimming and water safety, fundamental motor skills, gymnastics and fitness testing.

Students will reflect on and evaluate their personal levels of involvement in physical activity and identify means by which they could be more active on a daily basis. Students will also monitor and analyse their own performance and will combine motor skills, strategic thinking and tactical knowledge in both individual and team activities.

Students will also explore aspects of health to support an individual's function in wider society.

Duration of study:

- Full year

Topics Studied:

- Aquatic Education: Observations of Stroke Development and Evidence of Water Safety
- Fundamental Motors Skills
- Fitness Testing
- Gymnastics
- Modified Games

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Aquatic Education: stroke development and water safety
- Gymnastics routine presentation
- Problem solving within practical activities
- Participation and observation of skills/technique
- Demonstration of knowledge and understanding of rules, tactics and strategies associated with each sport
- Demonstration of teamwork and group cooperation

Humanities

In the Year 7 Victorian Curriculum, Humanities encompasses a broad range of subjects aimed at developing students' understanding of society, culture and the world around them. These include History, Civics and Citizenship, Geography and Business and Economics.

Students study the ancient world, focusing on the development of early societies and cultures, including Deep Time History of Australia. This includes examining ancient civilizations such as Egypt, Greece, Rome and China, and understanding their contributions to the modern world.

In their study of Civics and Citizenship, students develop an understanding of democratic principles, the role of government, and the responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society.

Students also explore the physical and human geography of the world, learning about landscapes, environments, and the interactions between people and their surroundings.

In addition, students are introduced to economic concepts, including the basics of markets, resources, and the role of businesses in society.

Duration of study:

- Full year

Topics Studied in Semester One:

- History
 - Historical Skills
 - Deep Time History of Australia
 - Ancient China
 - Mediterranean Civilisations
- Civics and Citizenship
 - Democracy and Social Cohesion
 - Constitution and Parliament
 - Rule of Law and the Courts

Topics Studied in Semester Two:

- Geography
 - Water in the World
 - Place and Liveability
 - Landscapes and Landforms
- Business and Economics
 - Economic Literacy
 - Business and Entrepreneurship

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Source analyses and comparisons
- Research tasks
- Extended responses
- Presentations
- Tests

Mathematics

The Year 7 Mathematics course is made up of six content strands: Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics and Probability.

Each of these is further enhanced by the proficiency strands of Understanding, Fluency, Problem Solving and Reasoning. Students are introduced to the scientific calculators.

Duration of study:

- Full year

Topics Studied:

- Computations with Positive Integers
- Number Properties and Patterns
- Fractions and Percentages
- Algebraic Techniques
- Decimals
- Negative Numbers
- Geometry
- Statistics & Probability
- Equations
- Measurement

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Tests
- Summary notes
- Modelling tasks
- Problem solving tasks
- Investigations
- Calculator skills
- Technology and computational thinking

Science

The Year 7 Science course introduces students to the differing branches of Science. Students begin the year by first learning about the fundamental nature of science and its practice within a laboratory setting. This prepares students for their next unit, entitled 'Mixing It Up', wherein they receive their first introduction to the basics of Chemistry and the composition of the world around us.

Students then move from the world of the very small to the world of the very large in their next unit, 'Our Place in Space', learning the scientific explanation for the existence of the planets and their orbit around the Sun, and the experience of seasons and tides on Earth.

Students are then given an introduction to Biology in their final two units of the year, beginning by exploring the nature and diversity of life in the 'Classification' unit before finally considering the deep interconnections underlying the survival and operation of the living world in the unit on 'Food Chains and Food Webs'.

Duration of study:

- Full year

Topics Studied:

- Introduction to Science and Lab Safety
- Mixtures
- Our Place in Space
- Classification
- Food Chains and Food Webs

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Unit tests
- Practical investigations
- Inquiry investigations

STEM

In Year 7 STEM students will build foundational skills with laboratory equipment, conduct student designed investigations and use programs such as Word and Excel to present reports on their findings. Students also learn the basics of electrical circuits and use this understanding to develop their algorithmic thinking to work with coding programs.

Students plan and manage individual and team projects with some autonomy and are encouraged to design and create digital solutions that solve problems taking their preferred futures into consideration. They consider ways of managing the exchange of ideas, tasks and files, and techniques for monitoring progress and feedback.

Duration of study:

- Full year

Topics Studied:

- Measuring things
- Acids and chemical reactions
- Mixtures and separating techniques
- Forces and simple machines
- The water cycle

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Enquiry based assessments and designs

Wellbeing Program

The Wellbeing Program at Mercy College provides our students with the opportunity to build positive wellbeing in order to support the full flourishing of every individual.

This starts with our C.L.E.A.R Wellbeing Program which is facilitated through our daily wellbeing period. The pillars of this program are Community, Learning, Emotional Intelligence, Agency, and Relationships.

The program aims to foster a:

- CLEAR sense of wellbeing
- CLEAR understanding of how to support student wellbeing
- CLEAR ability to use these skills now and when students leave school

Duration of study:

- Full year

Topics Studied:

- Emotional literacy
- Personal strengths
- Positive coping
- Problem solving
- Stress management
- Help seeking
- Gender and identity
- Positive gender relations

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Enquiry based assessments and designs



*Semester
Length
Subjects*

Languages

Indonesian

The Year 7 Indonesian course introduces the basic elements of the language and culture of Indonesia through a storytelling approach. Students listen, read, write and speak in the language on topics related to greetings, personal identity and school.

Students are introduced to the diversity of Indonesia and the importance of the Australian-Indonesian relationship in our world today.

Duration of study:

- One Semester

Topics Studied:

- Greetings
- Personal identity
- School

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Listening comprehension
- Reading comprehension
- Viewing comprehension
- Writing personal profile/email/article
- Speaking interview/conversation

Italian

The Year 7 Italian course develops the students' understanding and use of simple patterns of language.

Students begin to recognise and produce language using the imperative and present tense. Activities include presentations, role-plays, written tasks and listening and reading comprehension tasks.

Students also develop their intercultural understanding by looking at Italian celebrations, customs and traditions.

Duration of study:

- One Semester

Topics Studied:

- Greetings
- Family
- School
- Teaching Others a Skill

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Listening comprehension
- Reading comprehension
- Viewing comprehension
- Writing personal profile/email/article
- Speaking interview/conversation

Art

The Year 7 Art course encourages artistic development through the exploration of art in a range of mediums.

Students design and create their visual expressions from selected themes and concepts in a variety of visual art forms and styles. Students research and develop an informed opinion about artworks and artists from various art periods learn the various materials, mediums and techniques those artists used.

They examine their own culture and develop a deeper understanding of their practices as an artist.

Duration of study:

- One Semester

Topics Studied:

- The Elements of Art
- Art Period: Cubism

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Drawing task
- Cubist portrait
- Landscape painting

Performing Arts

In Year 7 Performing Arts includes the study of Dance, Drama and Theatre Studies. Students have the opportunity to learn aspects of stage craft and performance through understanding the rhythmic movement potential of the body and developing confidence and a positive self-image in a variety of forms of performing arts.

Through the introduction to a variety of dance styles it aims to develop students' social skills, co-ordination, dance techniques, dramatic conventions and ability to work cooperatively. Furthermore, the course aims to introduce safe performance practices through a range of performance related activities.

Students learn in a group setting as well as independently and perform in front of their peers.

Duration of study:

- One Semester

Topics Studied:

- Stage craft practices
- Dance styles including indigenous dance
- Dramatic conventions used in theatre and stage performance

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Technique assessment
- Performance assessment

Food Studies

The Year 7 Food Studies course is an introduction to practical food preparation using the processes of design and technology.

Students learn appropriate terminology, equipment names and uses, ingredient characteristics and how to prepare food in a safe and hygienic manner.

Students are introduced to the Design Process of investigating, generating, management, producing, analysing and evaluating.

Duration of study:

- One Semester

Topics Studied:

- Kitchen Basics
- Applying Kitchen Basics
- Healthy Eating

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

This subject is practical in nature and most/all lessons will have a practical component.

- Topic test
- Design tasks

Music

The Year 7 Music course focuses on introducing students to a range of musical instruments, sounds, styles and vocabulary.

Tasks are designed to encourage individual musical development, as well as ensemble skills. Each student in Year 7 Music learns a brass or woodwind instrument, participating in small group lessons and a Class Band. They perform as a Band at the Year 7 Band Night, held each semester.

To accompany their instrumental lessons, students also learn related theory and aural, with a focus on rhythm. Students delve into Film Music and learn specific musical vocabulary to then analyse the music in a film scene.

Duration of study:

- One Semester

Topics Studied:

- The Band Program
- Introduction to Music
- Music Theory
- Film Music

Examples of Learning Activities and Assessment Tasks:

- Performance assessments
- Film music analysis

Notes

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Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



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