



Junior School

Handbook

Year 7

2020

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JUNIOR SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Mirboo North Secondary College utilises a seven to nine sub school structure designed to best meet the educational needs of students in our community. In junior school one of our guiding principles is our desire to foster independent citizens and learners who take personal responsibility for both their learning and behaviour. Students with the confidence, knowledge and skills to embrace the full range of educational opportunities offered and select those suited to their individual needs are best equipped to succeed in whatever path they choose for their post-compulsory education. The junior school structure has been designed with these considerations in mind. The elective units selected over this time allow students to develop a passion and foster an engagement in learning together with the independence of working with and establishing different groups of peers in a range of classes.

In the early years it is important to foster strong student teacher relationships to help students feel confident in their learning. Our year 7 program aims to smoothly transition students from all different schools and connect with staff and students to develop and maintain meaningful relationships. Our Year 8 course aims to consolidate our year 7 program and introduce students to taking part in elective units that suit their passion.

Independence, responsibility and enquiry are the focus of our Year 9 City Experience camp, a camp which sees the students confidently negotiating Melbourne's transport system in small groups. Such skills prove invaluable if students wish to take part in higher education in Melbourne, after their secondary education concludes.

Assessment and Reporting Policy

The current reporting Policy is based on the following program.

Mirboo North SC provides a range of informal and formal methods of feedback to assist students to monitor their progress and determine their levels of achievement. Informal feedback is usually provided direct to the student in class. It provides advice and support about particular items of classwork, assessment items or new concepts.

Student reports provide a permanent record of the student's progress or achievements. In addition parent teacher interviews provide an opportunity for discussion with students and parents/carers in a formal scheduled interview.

Report Formats:

1. Learning Habit Reports
Provide feedback to students and parents about the student's approach to their learning. Notes on how to interpret learning habits are provided through Compass.
2. Learning Task Feedback
Provides feedback on the level of achievement by the student on specific assessment items such as: Tests, Essays, Assignments and Portfolios. Additional advice to students on areas to improve or methods to employ to improve the student's results.
3. Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews
An opportunity for students and parents to discuss the student's approach to learning, levels of achievement and progress.
4. End of Semester Reports
A summative report that covers the entire semester's work. Years 7 -10 include Victorian Curriculum levels and percentage scores on assessment tasks completed for each subject. Year 11 & 12 reports give an S or N in VCE outcomes and an overall subject result.

Feedback is given continuously throughout the semester via compass.

Report Timeline:	
Learning Habit Reports	3 per Semester
Learning Task Feedback	Minimum of 2 per Semester
Student/Parent/Teacher Interviews	End of Term 1 & 3
End of Semester Reports	End of Terms 2 & 4

Health & Safety

The safety of students is of prime concern to all teachers and instruction in the safe and correct use of tools and equipment is stressed at the beginning of units of work and each time a new tool or piece of equipment is to be used.

The safety of students will also be enforced by stricter disciplinary procedures in classes where tools and equipment are used. If a student acts in a dangerous manner when using tools then the student will be removed from class and sent to a co-ordinator or assistant principal. If a student continues to jeopardise his or her safety or the safety of others, then they may be excluded from that class.

Subject Levy

Please consider the subject levy fees carefully when choosing subjects. The levy is identified under each subject descriptor. The fees are to be paid by the first class of the subject in question.

School Policies

For a more extensive list of school policies please visit the college's website.

Year 7

CORE STUDIES

Over the course of year 7 students undergo a range of subjects that help them to understand the secondary school format. Our course gives students a sample of the diverse curriculum that is on offer at Mirboo North Secondary College whilst still creating a nurturing environment for our newest members to the school.

Core subjects include:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- German
- Physical Education
- Food
- Woodwork
- Health
- Music
- Get Set

Get Set

Get Set is an integrated study that utilises the key knowledge and skills of Geography, Humanities and ICT. The class is conducted in a flexible environment that allows for group work, individual class teaching or whole year level learning. Over the course of the year students study an ICT introductory unit, place and liveability, water, introductory to photography, Rome, China, and indigenous studies.

Students have an opportunity to embrace all styles of learning from model making, water labs in the community and an array of ICT enriched curriculum that pushes students to learn and become acquainted with an array of software packages that include picture editing and animation.

Get Set also allows for pastoral elements such as peer support so students feel more confident in their new environment.