



West Melton school Curriculum – Learning areas

The New Zealand Curriculum specifies eight learning areas: English, the arts, health and physical education, learning languages, mathematics and statistics, science, social sciences and technology.

Each learning area is part of a broad general education and lays a foundation for later specialisation. This learning is valuable in itself and for the pathways it opens for life long learning.

Schools have the opportunity and flexibility to structure learning experiences offered to students based on the learning needs of the students, consultation with the community, the world and happenings around us, and teachers' professional judgement.

Learning makes use of the natural connections that exist between learning areas and our values and key characteristics (as discussed in previous handouts).

For each learning area, students need specific help from their teacher as they learn:

- The specialist vocabulary associated with that area
- How to read and understand its texts
- How to communicate knowledge and ideas in appropriate ways
- How to listen and read critically, assessing the value of what they hear and read

The following information, briefly describes each learning area and for those of us who went to school a long time ago, the subjects that we used to call them!

During this term in the newsletters, there will be more detailed information presented to the community on each specific learning area.

Learning area	Description	Previous and current names
English (Literacy)	Students study, use and enjoy language and literature communicated orally, visually or in writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing • Spelling, phonics word study • Handwriting
The Arts	Students explore, refine and communicate ideas as they connect thinking, imagination, senses, and feelings to create works and respond to the works of others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual art Painting, drawing • Music • Drama • Dance
Health and Physical education	Students learn about their own well being, and that of others and society, in health-related and movement contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical education, • Sports • Health • Inquiry learning
Learning Languages	Students learn to communicate in an additional language, develop their capacity to learn further languages and explore different world views in relation to their own	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maori • Spanish or Japanese (Year 7 and 8)
Mathematics and statistics (Numeracy)	Students explore relationships in quantities, space, and data and learn to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and algebra • Geometry and measurement

	express these relationships ways that help them to make sense of the world around them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics
Science	Students explore how both the natural physical world and science itself work so that they can participate as critical, informed and responsible citizens in a society in which science plays a significant role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science • Inquiry learning
Social sciences	Students explore how societies work and how they themselves can participate and take action as critical, informed and responsible citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social studies • Environment studies • Inquiry learning
Technology	Students learn to be innovative developers of products and systems and discerning consumers who will make a difference in the world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design • Environmental studies • Inquiry learning • Technicraft (year 7 and 8)

Whilst Information communication technology (ICT) is not a specific learning area as such, it is integrated and permeates and supports all learning areas.

The purpose of providing this information during this term, is to inform you of the actual learning areas we teach and their content, based on the New Zealand Curriculum. A few parents were unclear on the delivery of the curriculum in relation to the values, key characteristics and principles discussed in a handout last term.

My intention by the end of this term is that you are clearer in your understanding of the West Melton School Curriculum based on the New Zealand Curriculum.

In the last newsletter, a breakdown of times for each learning area for a week was written to give you an idea of how much time each week is spent on specific learning areas. You will recall a large percentage of time is committed to Literacy and numeracy, the areas of priority!

Thank you

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