

SCHOOL CURRICULUM



Frensham Junior School fosters a caring and supportive environment where every student is encouraged to achieve to the best of his or her ability, to become both a team worker and an independent learner, to develop a strong sense of personal worth and belonging and to develop a desire to know, to learn and to understand.

Frensham Junior School has a Preschool program that covers all areas of a child's development in pre-academic, social, emotional, creative and physical areas. The Reggio Emilia philosophy of early childhood education is incorporated into the Preschool program.

Based on an Integrated Inquiry model, areas of the curriculum are connected by the use of rich teaching and learning experiences that are designed to develop children's ability to generate knowledge, to be able to go deeply into topics and to think in sophisticated ways.

The curriculum is organised in Stages:

- **Early Stage 1** is the program undertaken by the typical Kindergarten child;
- **Stage 1** is the program undertaken by typical Years 1 and 2 children;
- **Stage 2** is the program undertaken by typical Years 3 and 4 children;
- **Stage 3** is the program undertaken by typical Years 5 and 6 children.

Learning outcomes are designed to address the varying rates of child development and interest over a two-year period.

The curriculum is divided into six broad Key Learning Areas as required by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA):

- English
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- HSIE (which includes History and Geography)
- Creative and Practical Arts (Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance)
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

English K-6

As well as being an area in its own right, English is learnt across all curriculum areas. This role of English across the curriculum is part of our explicit planning and teaching.

Our program includes those aspects of English teaching that have been validated by research and proven to be effective in classrooms.

Students are:

- taught the letter-sound relationships of the language;
- given daily teacher-directed instruction in reading, spelling and writing;
- taught a full range of strategies to apply in reading, spelling and writing;
- encouraged to read aloud regularly to an adult;
- exposed to texts that are widely regarded as quality literature across a range of genres;
- taught specific aspects of grammar and punctuation;
- encouraged to develop an appreciation and critical response to imaginative, persuasive and information texts;
- exposed to classic literary works;
- given many opportunities to practise and to experiment with their new knowledge in written, read, viewed and spoken texts.

The purpose of language is to communicate. In order for children to communicate in increasingly sophisticated ways they need to experience success by seeing that they can communicate with meaning. At Frensham Junior School we respond firstly to the meaning in children's reading and writing.

Mathematics K-6

The NESA Mathematics syllabus is organised into strands: the process strand of Working Mathematically, and the content strands of Number & Algebra, Measurement & Space, Statistics & Probability. The Working Mathematically strand outcomes are pursued throughout each of the strands and sub-strands.

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We aim for our students to:

- develop positive attitudes towards Mathematics and the personal qualities required to pursue mathematical activity;
- develop their mathematical knowledge, skills and ways of thinking for:
 - using Mathematics in their everyday lives, including leisure;
 - using Mathematics as a basis for making, evaluating or judging;
 - engaging in the mathematical study needed for further education and employment;
- communicate mathematically and interpret information where Mathematics is used;
- use techniques and tools which are appropriate to modern Mathematics;
- use Mathematics as a means for solving problems, both within and beyond the classroom, using a range of methods involving mental, manual and technological processes.

Human Society and its Environment K-6

The HSIE Key Learning Area (KLA) includes the **History K-6 Syllabus** and the **Geography K-6 Syllabus**.

The History K-6 Syllabus provides opportunities for students to learn about Change and Continuity. Students investigate their connections with the past through personal, family and local community history. They examine significant events and people that shaped Australian colonies and the nation.

Cultures is represented in both the History K-6 Syllabus and the Geography K-6 Syllabus. In History and Geography K-6, students learn about the diverse cultures of Australia, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures. Students learn about the importance of intercultural understanding through examining the perspectives, beliefs and values of people, past and present.

Environments is predominantly represented in Geography K-6, where students explore the natural and human features of a range of places, across local and global scales. Students learn about how and why places and environments change and how they can be cared for and managed in a sustainable way.

Learning opportunities for Social Systems and Structures are provided through the content of the History and Geography syllabuses and through learning across the curriculum content. Students learn about the roles, rights and responsibilities people have within society and the development of Australian democracy. In History K-6, students examine the contribution of individuals and groups to Australian society in areas such as the economy, education and the arts.

Japanese Language and Cultural Exchange

Japanese language and culture are taught from Preschool to Year 6, with K-6 students engaging in weekly lessons and fortnightly Zoom sessions with Frensham Junior School's sister school, Hokuriku Gakuin. Since 1990, we have maintained a connection with Hokuriku Gakuin School, in Kanazawa, Japan.

Students and teachers from each school participate in an cultural exchange program. Frensham Junior School students are offered a Japan Tour when they are in Year 4, Year 5 or Year 6 which allows them to experience daily life in another culture, practise language skills and establish international friendships. Frensham Junior School families also act as hosts in billeting Hokuriku Gakuin students when they visit our School.

Science and Technology K-6

The study of Science and Technology in K-6 enables students to explore scientific and technological concepts and develop knowledge and understanding of the world; enabling them to inquire, plan, investigate and develop solutions to problems. Through the application of Working Scientifically, and Design and Production skills, students develop an interest in and an enthusiasm for understanding nature, phenomena and the built environment.

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Students develop and apply skills in: scientific inquiry through the process of working scientifically; design and production processes in the development of solutions; design and production of digital solutions. These skills are important in preparing students to succeed in a rapidly developing technological world.

Students develop knowledge and understanding of: the natural world including living things, materials, forces, energy, and Earth and space; the built environment including engineering principles and systems, food and fibre production, and material technologies; digital technologies including digital systems and how digital technologies represent data.

Science and Technology K–6 is an integrated discipline that fosters in students a sense of wonder and curiosity about the world around them and how it works. The syllabus provides students with the opportunity to make meaningful connections with the broader learning outcomes of the K–6 curriculum in English, Mathematics, History, Geography, Creative Arts, Languages and PDHPE through authentic application of relevant knowledge and acquired skills. Science and Technology K–6 encourages students to embrace new concepts, the unexpected and to learn through trialling, testing and refining ideas.

Information Technology

Children in all years use computer technology to support and enrich their learning. Learning within this field is a part of the overall program of study and different forms of technology are used as tools within all KLAs. In addition, the children's accumulation of understanding and skills in regard to the uses and functions of different technology is programd K-6.

Students in Years 3–6 participate in cyber bullying and internet safety sessions. Students, parents and the School discuss the appropriate use of computer technology and students are required to sign an ICT Agreement.

Preschool to Year 1 have iPads available in classrooms, Year 2 to Year 5 have access to Chromebooks and Year 6 participate in the BYOD Program.

Year 6 BYOD Program

Bring your own device (BYOD) refers to technology models where students bring a personally owned device to school for the purpose of learning. Today, students have wide-reaching access to digital resources. By effectively leveraging such resources, we can not only deepen student learning, but also develop students' digital literacy, fluency and citizenship, preparing them for the world in which they will live learn and work.

We have a responsibility to teach students how to effectively manage and use technology in preparation for Secondary schooling. The skills students need are not just technical – they must also be able to communicate effectively, know when to use technology and when not to, and be able to use technology purposefully without being distracted. Like most skills, these are learned and improved with practice.

Broadly speaking, the major goals of the Frensham Junior School BYOD Program are greater personalisation and ownership of the learning experience, and improved access to information resources.

Parents are recommended to view the following website to find out important information regarding Cybersafety: www.esafety.gov.au

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education K-6

As a part of the overall policy of providing a supportive learning environment at Frensham Schools, at Frensham Junior School we build personal development into our classroom management and teaching practices. We also have an explicit program of Health and Personal Development that is sequential throughout the school. This KLA assists students to develop self-esteem, social responsibility, physical activity, movement skills and the ability to make informed decisions about health and lifestyle.

Students participate in weekly PDHPE lessons and Sport sessions with a specialist teacher. A range of sporting teams and activities are also offered. (See Co-curricular Activities and Extra Subjects)

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Creative Arts K-6

The aim of this program is to develop in all students a vital interest in learning through the Visual Arts, Music, Drama and Dance. Students learn to value the personal and shared meanings gained from experiencing the Arts; appreciate how the Arts celebrate, reflect and challenge societies and culture; and appreciate how the Arts are structured to provide for the communication of ideas including their own.

Years 2 and 3 students participate in a strings group program as a component of their Music lessons. Students participate in weekly Art and Music lessons in the purpose-built facilities with specialist teachers. All students participate in Choir from Kindergarten. We also have a School Orchestra and small instrumental ensembles. There is also a range of Co-curricular Arts Activities available after school for interested students.

Throughout the year there are many occasions for students to share their work, publicly and for each other through Performance Assemblies, Soirées, Cultural Performances and Exhibitions, and all students from Preschool to Year 6 participate in an annual Musical Production.

