



JUNIOR SCHOOL CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

ST JOHN'S
GRAMMAR

The core curriculum includes:

- English (Literacy)
- Mathematics (Numeracy)
- Humanities & Social Sciences (HASS)
- Science
- The Arts
- Indonesian
- Technology
- Physical Education
- Wellbeing & Health Education

Our highly qualified teachers are skilled at providing experiences that are engaging and relevant and are backed by a rigorous process of planning and review.

Differentiated Learning

We offer a Differentiated Learning program from Reception - Year 6. Differentiated Learning provides small, targeted learning groups based on ability to help with the explicit teaching of foundational literacy and numeracy concepts. This approach allows class teachers support the mainstream learners, with extra scaffolding for students who need it to be provided by Student Support Officers (SSO) and specialist teachers able to provide extension for those requiring it.

Wellbeing Framework

An ELC - Year 12 Framework provides age and stage appropriate learning to enhance the wellbeing of our students. In a Junior School context, the focus is on social and emotional learning delivered via the Friendology program. This program provides the knowledge and skills to develop the ability to care for themselves and others, make responsible decisions, establish and maintain positive relationships, and bounce forward from challenging situations.

Agency & Innovation

At each year level, students engage in a 'Signature Experience' that allows them to delve into a specific area of interest and apply their knowledge and skills in a meaningful way. These experiences serve as catalysts for innovation and provide students with the opportunity to showcase their talents and ideas. Our 'Festival of Ideas' celebrates the culmination of these experiences, where students come together to share their innovative projects, fostering a school-wide culture of creativity and collaboration.

Literacy

We have developed a unique and comprehensive genre-based literacy program called Learning Teams and a rigorous, synthetic phonics program called Spelling Teams. Learning Teams is a small-group initiative that focuses specifically on the development of writing skills. The Spelling Teams program explicitly teaches students how to segment and blend words and is underpinned by the Letters and Sounds Framework. To complement these programs, the Phonemic Awareness Program helps students identify syllables, onset rime and phonemes and Decodable Readers further support readers to decode words for meaning.

Numeracy

Our Maths Teams program sees students undertake weekly problem-solving challenges in targeted learning groups with a growth mindset approach. The challenges are open-ended and are designed to develop and promote verbal and written reasoning of Maths. Our approach to numeracy in the Junior School has been led by best practice schools that rank highly in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) and has seen us introduce the PR1ME Maths program for Year 1-6 students which has been modified to complement the content and outcomes of the Australian Mathematics Curriculum. This is further supported by Matific, an interactive teaching and learning platform.

HASS

In the Junior School, studying Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) is an essential part of students developing the ability to question, think critically, solve problems, communicate effectively, make decisions and adapt to change. Thinking about, and responding to issues requires an understanding of the key historical, geographical, political, economic and societal factors involved, and how these different factors inter-relate. Students get the opportunity to explore important ideas and events through a range of interactive and creative ways.

Science

In the Junior School, students have a variety of opportunities to develop scientific questioning and investigation skills, undertake experiments and inquire into a range of scenarios and questions about the biological, physical and technological world. Museum-style specimen drawers, mobile tool trolleys, live animals and a fully fitted modern laboratory enable our students to engage deeply in the study of Science.

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The Arts

At the Junior School, The Arts encompasses Visual Arts, Drama and Music.

Visual Arts

Taught by a specialist teacher, Visual Arts is a dynamic and interactive program where students can explore and refine artistic techniques using a variety of mediums and media. Our dedicated Art rooms in the Centre for Creativity provide a space for artistic talents to flourish.

Music

A strong music program enables students in all year level to become competent and confident instrumentalists. Students in Year 3 take part in the Strings Program which provides weekly specialist instruction in violin, viola or cello, in addition to a weekly choral session as part of year level choir. The program culminates with a superb ensemble performance at the end of the year. In Year 4, students are able to choose to continue with their stringed instrument or class choir, as well as classroom music. Year 5 students take part in the Band program which provides students with weekly specialist instruction in flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, saxophone or percussion. Student also take part in a weekly choral session as part of year level choir. In Year 6 students are encouraged to continue with their chosen instrument and join the Junior School Band.

Indonesian

All Junior School students study Indonesian with a specialist teacher and all classroom teachers include the Indonesian language in their teaching. We aim to promote an awareness and to broaden students' knowledge of cultural diversity within our community at all year levels.

Technology

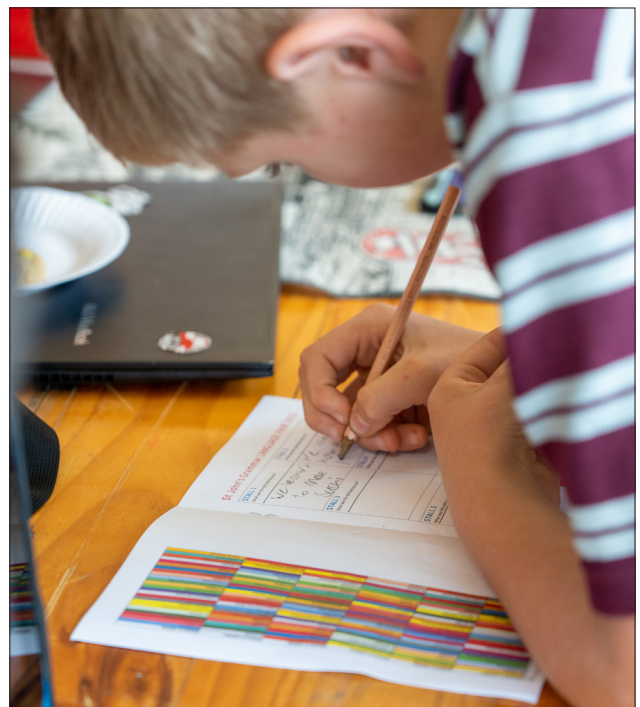
The Technology curriculum teaches students the rights and responsibilities of digital citizens and empowers students with sound technological skills across a variety of digital and technological platforms. A unique, dedicated media room is equipped with a green screen, VR devices, 360 cameras and a range of other media and recording equipment, exposes our students to additional opportunities in this subject area.

Physical Education

Physical Education at St John's Grammar aims to develop a positive attitude towards physical activity. All students participate in weekly sessions with the specialist Physical Education Teacher. A wide range of physical activities is used to assist in the students' physical and social development with a major emphasis on sportsmanship and positive lifestyle attitudes. As we are situated on the edge of Belair National Park, we are able to regularly utilise the beautiful surroundings for our cross country running program and have use of the ovals and tennis courts. Extensive summer and winter sports programs provide the opportunity for students to engage in co-curricular sporting teams. The School regularly competes in a wide variety of SAPSASA events at both district and state level.

Wellbeing & Health Education

Friendology is taught from Reception - Year 6 and is a sequential skills-based program empowering students with the skills, language, and self-confidence to be better friends and develop healthier relationships. It creates a common language of friendship among kids, teachers, and parents. The wellbeing concepts and strategies are taught by a specialist teacher and complements our values-based CARES program (courtesy, awareness, responsibility, empathy and service).





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www.stjohns.sa.edu.au