



## The nature of the Curriculum at Xavier College

(to be read in conjunction with the Xavier College Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles, its *Learning and Teaching Policy*, and the *College's Strategic Plan*)

Above all, as an educational community, the College is tasked with the formation of its students. This is our core business. Such a task goes to our identity as a school and the relationships within it. The College has a responsibility to prepare its students for the world, equipping them with the competencies that will allow them to succeed in this world. But we also seek to form young men and women of conscience and genuine values who will not simply fit into the world but who will seek to make a difference to it by the quality of the lives they lead. We seek to obtain excellent VCE results and so give our students the qualifications they need to open doors for the courses they aspire to in the next stage of their journey. But we also seek to instil in them a love for learning itself, and to impart in them an ability to question and think independently. Our students should neither be primed merely for success, nor experience an education driven only by utilitarian considerations. We seek to shape leaders for the future – in the professions, in business, in society – but also to form leaders with a strong sense of service as ‘men and women for others.’ As well as nourishing the intellectual, physical and creative lives of our students, we seek to nourish their spiritual lives. In all this, striking a good balance, whether as a school or as individuals, is an ongoing challenge.

### Principles on which to base the Curriculum at Xavier College:

- Xavier College is an academically inclusive school offering a holistic education with a particular curriculum within the context of traditional Australian Jesuit education;
- Xavier College continues to provide its strong academic tradition through a core curriculum and affording a pathway to tertiary studies;
- Xavier College's curriculum promotes engaged learning to foster a desire to learn in its students;
- Xavier College seeks to develop and progress the full potential of its students through the way the curriculum is implemented;
- Xavier College will define its response to market and other secular forces in a manner consistent with its Jesuit educational philosophy and the Catholic tradition;
- Xavier College seeks to respond to the needs of students at different age/grade levels;
- Providing appropriate foundations for studies in later years is a critical factor in determining the nature of curriculum offerings at different levels.

### A Jesuit liberal arts education values:

- **Religious Education as integral to our programme as a Catholic school.** The study of religion should reflect our conviction that there is no necessary conflict between faith and reason, that our students should leave Xavier with a high degree of religious literacy, and that a strong element of a faith that seeks to do justice is embedded in the programme. The Religious Education programme is complemented by other aspects of school life such as retreats, a faith in service programme, liturgies and pastoral care, in which spiritual formation is nourished.

- **Languages in order to articulate and communicate ideas and transmit culture.** The study of language also powerfully disciplines the mind and fosters the memory. Jesuit schools in Australia are expected to offer at least one Asian language as part of our engagement with Asia. Historically, Latin has a special place in the Xavier tradition. The Jesuit tradition of valuing the skills of debating, public speaking and drama in our schools is an extension of the commitment to the “vir eloquens”, the eloquent person. The search for meaning in the modern world, amid the increasing uncertainties of all aspects of culture, including religion, places greater value on our experience of literature.
- **History as integral to our tradition as a tool for understanding our human story.** In a time where the ‘now’ exercises an even greater force, History draws on the importance of perspective in our thinking and reflecting. The value given to the teaching of History also reflects the fact that as Christianity is a historical religion, our graduates need to have a strong grasp of historical process, not to mention historical context.
- **The visual and performing arts, in our curriculum, and in the co-curricular life of the school, as key in nurturing and enriching imagination and creativity.** The study of media in all its forms, and its role in culture, also assumes an increasing importance in educating for life. An appreciation of the aesthetics of beauty, and experiences of creativity, can enrich our sense of the transcendent dimension of reality beyond merely a reductionist material sense of reality.
- **Mathematics, Sciences and Technology as vital in preparing our students for the modern world.** Mathematics gives an appreciation to the elegance and power of Mathematical reasoning which has evolved across cultures over thousands of years and is constantly developing. Science provides an empirical way of answering important questions about the biological, physical and technical world. The effective and appropriate use of information and communications technology enables students to create, and communicate information and ideas, solve problems and work collaboratively in all aspects of their lives. In our tradition their study should reflect our commitment to academic rigour and excellence in learning.
- **Health and Physical Education as critical to the formation of the whole person.** It is important for students to understand their health, safety and wellbeing and that of others. The compulsory sporting program of the College adds to this and the time allocated to Sport and Outdoor Education should be taken into account when considering the physical development of students.
- **The social sciences, civics and politics, legal studies, commerce and economics, geography, multimedia and other subjects as enriching the curriculum offerings at Xavier.** Electives are important for providing student choice in meeting their academic interests and passions, but appropriate criteria, aligned with the Xavier College educational philosophy, need to be developed for determining the optimal range of offerings at different levels. These criteria will include support for core traditional areas, exposing students to new areas of study, challenging students to excellence in their studies, and making best use of available resources.

The College’s extensive co-curricular programme rounds out our commitment to holistic education. The programme seeks to build connectedness and community while nourishing the gifts of our students. It encourages creativity and teamwork, nourishes the physical and the aesthetic, draws upon both the passion and self-discipline of our students, and enables both participation and success. Conveying a sense of the breadth and depth of student involvement goes to the nature of the school as an educational community that aims to have each student, and their gifts and interests, known and valued.