



COOMERA  
ANGLICAN  
COLLEGE



# COOMERA ANGLICAN COLLEGE HANDBOOK

## Section 2 Curriculum and Programming

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## Curriculum Aims

Our Curriculum framework delivers a relevant and holistic education for all our students. Students are provided with opportunities to become articulate, independent and self-motivated so that our graduates are capable of critical thinking, creative problem solving and possess the ability to work with others. In addition, Coomera Anglican College graduates should be adaptable and able to make informed decisions about their ongoing education, vocational choices and personal relationships.

## The Curriculum

- Is outcomes and futures oriented, addressing the rights of all students to access studies appropriate to their individual needs, talents and aspirations.
- Ensures that courses provide the opportunity for articulation with further education and certification with the appropriate bodies, consistent with current national education and training initiatives.
- Is serviced by committed staff qualified to teach in the curricular and/or cocurricular programs offered.
- Promotes a partnership approach to education which adopts a cooperative approach to teaching and encourages cross fertilisation between subject areas in order to maximise teacher expertise and peer support.
- Ensures that all students to Year 10 have access to key learning areas.
- Develops in students an awareness of their own spirituality and faith development within the tradition of the Anglican Church, and the moral consequences of their actions, within an atmosphere of shared values.
- Ensures that all students are provided with opportunities to pursue educational programs which maximise access, participation and outcomes in a spirit of social justice and equity.
- Provides opportunities for students to become confident with a variety of technological systems in the course of their normal subject studies.
- Fosters students' confidence and consideration in dealing with others and develop their ability to work effectively in teams towards shared outcomes.

In developing Curriculum, the College utilises current national and state documents (where available and appropriate), as well as excellent educational research and practice, to design relevant programmes which articulate the above aims. Curriculum is a dynamic powerful tool that changes in response to the complexities of modern life, the needs of individual students and the mission of the College.



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## **Class Allocations**

Students are continually socialising with others from within their class or students from other classes. We encourage these relationships, especially between a student's own age group. The class groupings change from year to year as children progress through the Junior and Senior Primary Campuses. It is College policy not to change students from class to class within a year. Any concerns regarding class allocations from year to year should be directed to the Principal/Head of Campus. The College reserves the right to allocate students across classes. Several factors, including behaviour, academic progress, gender balance and complimentary student groupings are all considered when class allocations are made.

Junior and Senior Secondary students are allocated to Pastoral Care classes and meet each morning and afternoon for roll call and messages. Junior Secondary (Years 7 - 9) students' Pastoral Care classes are allocated according to their year level/class, while Senior Secondary (Years 10 - 12) students' Pastoral Care classes are associated with their year level and House.

## **Scholarships and Bursaries**

### ***Scholarships***

Each year the College Council offer a number of scholarships to students. The scholarship entitles the recipient to some remission of tuition fees. Scholarships are offered on the basis of results of Scholarship examinations, past academic results, references, an interview with the Principal and, where applicable, auditions.

Information regarding Scholarship Examinations will be advertised in the College Newsletter, the Gumleaf Gazette, and on the College website. Scholarship exams/auditions and interviews are held early in the year after which Scholarships are awarded for the following year. Registration for Scholarship Examinations is done on-line, via the College website.

### ***Bursaries***

Families encountering financial difficulties following enrolment of their children should, in the first instance, discuss the matter with the Business Manager. The Business Manager may then refer the matter to the Principal.

## **Learning Support/Extension**

### ***Learning Support***

The College endeavours to identify and develop any special learning needs which exist in our students. A process is in place to recognise students in need of learning assistance, either for learning difficulties or extension.



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There is a professional Learning Support Teacher based in each Campus who coordinates activities to cater for the special needs of students. Students with special needs are supported by class teachers, with assistance from the Learning Support teachers and their staff where required. Extension and support learning programmes are based on individual and small group work depending on needs.

It is imperative that all information about prior learning difficulties or developmental delays, psychological or physical assessment is advised to College staff. This will ensure that your child's needs can be assessed more readily and programmes planned according to their needs. If you have any concerns about your child's learning, please speak to their class or PC teacher.

### ***Extension Programmes***

The needs of students requiring extension and additional challenges are catered for in the Primary classroom with personally designed extension activities. Our curriculum programmes allow students to progress at their own pace. The College may consider accelerating a student's year level, where it is considered the best option for that individual.

Junior Secondary students are carefully allocated to Mathematics and English classes to reflect their learning needs and individuals are able to receive extension work as required. Secondary students are able to move ahead of their year level for particular subjects in which they have talent, where it can be fitted to their timetable and teachers can also modify assignment work to ensure they remain challenged within their year level group. In addition, Primary and Secondary students can be invited to attend specialist Excellence Programmes operated within a group of Queensland schools and through our links with Bond and Griffith Universities.

### **Specialist Curriculum Areas**

#### ***Language Other Than English***

Chinese is taught to all students from Preparatory to Year 7. From Year 8 through to Year 12 Chinese is then available as an elective subject. Chinese is taught by specialist teachers who teach reading, writing, listening and speaking as well as the Chinese culture. Secondary students studying Chinese have the opportunity to travel to China approximately every second year.

#### ***ESL***

Support can be provided to students who need English language assistance for up to two periods per week. This is not a full English teaching programme and International students are required to have successfully completed an approved English language programme prior to enrolment.

#### ***Music and Drama***

The Music and Drama programme is a compulsory part of the College curriculum. It encompasses some optional and compulsory instrumental tuition at various year levels and performance



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opportunities at concerts and assemblies throughout the year. Students in Junior Primary have the opportunity to learn the Fife; all Senior Primary students are tutored in an instrument throughout Year 4 and all Junior Secondary students receive some tuition in guitar and keyboard as part of the Music programme. These programmes are introductory programmes and students wishing to further their skills may then choose to enrol in private tuition with one of the many tutors at the College. A variety of instruments are available, as well as choirs and instrumental performance groups. See Section 7 “All the Extras” or separate, detailed *Cocurricular and Music Information Handbooks*.

The Arts incorporates Art and Media from Year 7 preparing for specialisation in these areas as they become elective subjects from Year 9. Art classes are also available in Primary.

## *Physical Education*

### *Health and Physical Education*

HPE is scheduled for all year groups from Preparatory to Year 10 as a compulsory part of the Curriculum and is taught each week by specialist HPE staff. If your child is unable to participate in a particular activity, you will need to notify the College in writing explaining the medical reasons. HPE covers a wide range of physical activity and theory designed to help children learn about a healthy diet and exercise as well as learn the skills and knowledge to participate in a large variety of sports.

### *Swimming Programme*

As part of the Health and Physical Education programme during Term 1 or Term 4, all students from Preparatory to Year 10 will be involved in swimming activities appropriate to their skill level in the water.

At the relevant time, Parents will be notified in writing of the timing and requirements of this programme. The cost of this programme is included in the fees.

### *Sport*

Coomera Anglican College is a member of the Associated Private Schools (APS) sporting competition. There are eight Gold Coast schools that make up the APS. The College participates in the Primary division (Years 4 - 7) and Secondary division (Years 8 - 12) in Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals, as well as a Winter (Term 2) and Summer (Term 4) round robin season.

In Term 2 and Term 4, Year 4 - 7 students compete on Thursday afternoon and Year 8 - 12 students compete on Friday afternoon during the College day. In Term 2 and Term 4 all students in Years 4 - 12 are required to train **after school** - on Tuesday (4 - 7) and Wednesday (8 - 12). This training is part



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of the College day for students and non-attendance without prior notification/arrangement is not acceptable. Consequence for non-attendance may include lunch or after school detention.

Students may advance from the APS inter-school competition by trialling for District and progressing through to Regional, State and National competition level.

The full Sports Information Handbooks for the current year with a competition timetable are available from administration and the College Website.

All Junior Primary students (**Preparatory - Year 3**) participate in sport on a weekly basis, developing a positive attitude to a healthy, active lifestyle. A weekly sport session and annual carnivals are held to assist in building the skills and knowledge needed for future participation in the APS teams Competition and Athletics competition. All classes also have PE classes scheduled each week with specialist teachers.

### ***Religious and Values Education (RaVE)***

All students participate in our modern and innovative RaVE programme, specifically designed for each age group. Our RaVE programme is intended to help our students understand our culture and religious history and link these to the way we live today. RaVE also teaches appreciation of the beliefs and religious history of other cultures.

### **Worship and Assembly**

The College is open to students of all religious denominations however, the liturgy of the Anglican Church will be followed in the sacraments. The music and style of Worship will follow the Anglican tradition. It is compulsory for all students to attend and be involved in Worship. Each day will begin with a short prayer and an acknowledgment of our faith in God. Each week there will be an assembly and Worship.

Assemblies and Worship have always been an integral part of students' life at Coomera Anglican College. They are a vehicle for developing and enhancing the very important areas of socialisation, communication and self discipline, especially in listening and group movement, anticipation and the nurturing and developing of a belief in Christ. In our College, Worship Services will assist in the transmission of the traditions of the Anglican style of Worship, taking into account the diversity of those traditions.

In Primary, the College Chaplain leads Worship and a rostered class leads the Assembly each week. Student participation is a key component of these important gatherings. Preparatory - Year 1, Years 2 - 3 and Years 4 - 6 students receive awards and share information in separate weekly assemblies and Worships, appropriate to their level of development.



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Secondary students participate in Worship and Assembly on a weekly basis and students plan and participate in these gatherings under the guidance of their teachers.

## **Camps and Excursions**

### *Camps*

Outdoor education activities aim to adjust and heighten the consciousness of students to the physical and cultural environment. The College endeavours to hold annual camps and regular excursions that :

- broaden the student's environment
- contain activities that directly relate to the needs and interests of the students
- allow for socialisation
- teach the student to cope with new social, physical and emotional situations outside the College and home
- include pre and post camp activities
- introduce new leisure time and adventure activities or reinforce those already learnt
- increase student resilience and independence
- offer the students a range of localities at which activities will take place.

These camps/activities are a compulsory part of the College curriculum and therefore all students are expected to attend their Year level camp.

Outdoor Education makes a valuable contribution to the complete education of students as it provides experiences, challenges and skills which enhance independence, self-reliance and increased skills of teamwork and cooperation.

Challenges are tailored to meet the needs and capabilities of the students.

### Years 3 - 6

In Year 3 students take part in a sleep-over at the College. Years 4 - 6 students take part in short camps at professionally operated venues in the South East Queensland area.

### Years 7 - 11

Students in Years 7 - 11 take part in an Outdoor Education camp of three or four days duration at professionally operated venues in the South East Queensland region.



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These camps provide increasing challenges for our students. It is for this, and many other educational reasons, that attendance is compulsory.

## *Excursions*

Throughout the year, class and/or subject teachers will organise excursions for students of the College. Students from Preparatory - Year 12 may at some time be involved in an excursion. These excursions are intended to enhance the learning experience of our students.

Parents/guardians are asked to cooperate by signing Excursion Consent forms and returning them promptly. Charges for planned excursions are incorporated into the College fees. On rare occasions, an appropriate excursion outside of those budgeted may arise and an additional payment will be requested to cover the cost of this event.

Codes of Conduct specific to excursions will be sent home when appropriate.