



COOMERA
ANGLICAN
COLLEGE



COOMERA ANGLICAN COLLEGE HANDBOOK

Section 2 Curriculum and Programming

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Curriculum Aims

Our Curriculum delivers a guaranteed and viable programme of 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

- Supports the College Purpose: *Inspire Excellence in Teaching, Learning, Service and Faith*
- Is student centred, data informed and futures oriented, addressing the rights of all students to access studies that are targeted and personalised to their individual needs, talents and aspirations
- Supports students in all Year levels and areas of study to achieve success in all aspects of their lives through the combined use of Growth Mindset approaches and the *Habits of Mind* framework
- Ensures that courses provide the opportunity for articulation with further education and certification with the appropriate bodies, consistent with current national and state education and training initiatives
- Is serviced by committed staff qualified to teach in the curricular and/or cocurricular programmes offered
- Promotes a partnership approach to education based on professional collaboration, communication and reflective practice thereby supporting excellence and encouraging cross fertilisation between subject areas in order to maximise teacher expertise, peer support and innovative practice
- Ensures that all students to Year 10 have optimal access to Australian Curriculum 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 programmes which maximise access, participation and outcomes in a spirit of social justice and equity
- Provides opportunities for students to become confident and versatile in the use of a wide variety of modern technologies, authentic tools and quality resources 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.
- Support students to be creative and critical thinkers who learn to take responsible risks within a safe, inclusive and supportive environment



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In developing the 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 stated aims. Curriculum is a dynamic and powerful tool that requires regular evaluation and development in response to the complexities of modern life, the current and future needs of individual students and the purpose of the College.

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 one class to another in order to accommodate parent requests on the basis of 'friendship groups'. Any concerns regarding class allocations from year to year should be directed to the Head of Campus. The College reserves the right to allocate students across classes. Several factors, including behaviour, academic progress, gender balance and complementary student groupings are all considered when class allocations are made.

Junior and Senior Secondary students are allocated to Pastoral Care classes and meet 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. Academic and General Excellence Scholarships are offered on the basis of results of Scholarship examinations, past academic results, references, resume an interview with the Principal and, where applicable, auditions.

Information regarding Scholarship Examinations will be advertised 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 online, via the College website.

Bursaries

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



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Continuous Learning/Learning Extension

Continuous Learning

The College endeavours to identify and address 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.

There is a professional Continuous Learning 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 Continuous Learning 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 is advised to College staff upon enrolment or as soon as diagnosed, and that copies of any psychological or physical assessment is provided to the College. This will ensure that your child's needs can be assessed more readily and programmes planned according to their requirements. 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. Primary students who require extension are assessed and selected to participate in the Infinity and Beyond Programme. During this programme students are involved in project work, and activities requiring higher order thinking and skill application

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 that complement their learning needs; and individuals are able to receive extension work as required. Where it can be accommodated in timetables, secondary students are able to move ahead of their year level for particular subjects in which they have aptitude. Teachers can also modify assignment work to ensure students 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.



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Specialist Curriculum Areas

Language Other Than English

Chinese is taught to all students from Preparatory to Year 8. From Year 9 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 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. Year 11 and 12 students can study ESL as an approved Senior subject.

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 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 is available, as well as choirs and instrumental performance groups.

The Arts also 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 activities and theory; and is 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.



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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 College tuition 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 -6) and Secondary division (Years 7 - 12) in Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals, as well as a Winter (Term 2) and Summer (Term 4) fixtures.

In Term 2 and Term 4, Year 4 - 6 students compete on Thursday afternoon and Year 7 - 12 students compete on Friday afternoon. In Term 2 and Term 4 all students in Years 4 - 12 are required to train **after school**. Different Year levels train on different days and students will be advised of the relevant training day applicable to their Year level. This training is part of the College day for students and non-attendance without prior notification/arrangement is not acceptable. A 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

While the College is open to students of all religious beliefs, 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 participate in Worship. Each day will begin with a short prayer as an acknowledgment of our Christian life as a community. Each week there will be an assembly and Worship.



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Assemblies and Worship have always been an integral part of student 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, experiencing the transcendent, finding meaning and purpose and the nurturing of 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, assisted by rostered student leaders or class cohort. Student leaders lead 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. Worship and Assembly reflect the College 'flourishing' framework.

Secondary students participate in Worship and Assembly on a weekly basis. The Worship is conducted by the College Chaplain, while teachers and student leaders lead the Assemblies.

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.



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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 - 10

Students in Years 7, 8 and 10 take part in an Outdoor Education camp of three or four days duration at professionally operated venues in the South East Queensland region. Students in Year 9 participate in Community Service in the local and wider community.

These camps and Community Service programmes 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 or Excursion Acknowledgement forms and returning them promptly. Charges for planned excursions are incorporated into the College tuition 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.