



The Mary MacKillop Unit at Mount Carmel College caters for full time school students with a mild/moderate intellectual disability. The educational package comprises Middle Years (Years 8 and 9) and Senior Years (Years 10, 11 and 12).

Aims

The aims of the Mary MacKillop Unit facility are to:

- include students in the educational and social setting of Mount Carmel College.
- provide students with a wide variety of experiences and peer relationships.
- assist students with an intellectual disability to use theoretical concepts learned in practical situations.
- provide opportunities for students to develop a sense of responsibility and self-worth.
- teach social skills and confidence to enhance social interaction in the community.
- involve students in the local community.
- assist students in acquiring skills related to independent living.
- assist students in acquiring skills to enable them to find gainful employment.
- develop and implement an educational program which will enable each student to reach his or her potential.
- provide an environment where students have the opportunity to share the full range of social experiences.
- help develop an understanding of disability among our College community.



We attempt to achieve these aims through:

- inclusion within the school curriculum.
- opportunities for shared community activities.
- development of Individual Education Plans.
- access to community facilities to enhance varied programs.
- participation in Work Education Activities.
- provision of Disability Awareness programs.



Student Behaviour and Responsibility

As our Unit students are members of the College community, they are responsible for their own behaviour at all times during the school day. Staff work with our Unit students to teach them about making positive choices regarding their behaviour.

Curriculum Extension Activities

As well as Middle Years and Senior Years topics, there are other Curriculum Extension Activities within the Unit. These include regular physical activities, for example, swimming, participation in disability carnivals, basketball, athletics and Unity Days with other Catholic schools and regular excursions, sleepovers and camps.

Activities are planned as a means of generating contact with other students and assessing academic social and independence goals.



Curriculum

Philosophy

The underlying philosophy of the Mary MacKillop Unit is inclusion. It is the expectation that students are able to participate in and benefit from involvement in mainstream school programs. Each student is expected to be part of his/her Home Group. There are opportunities for students to make informed decisions and exercise personal choice about preferred programs. Individualised programs help to ensure maximum participation by the individual. The current and future needs of the students are addressed in areas of work placement, daily living, transport and leisure needs.

Middle Years (Years 8 and 9)

Students in Year 8 and 9 are involved in the mainstream school program. This consists of inclusion in subjects such as Religious Education, Life Skills, Food and Fabric Technology, Technical Studies, Art, Music, and Physical Education.

Subjects that are offered within the Unit setting are strongly based on the development of numeracy and literacy skills. Subject areas include Mathematics, Science, Living Skills, Cooking, Work Education, and Leisure and Recreational activities.



Senior Years (Years 10, 11 and 12)

At Year 10 students may begin studying some SACE Units offered within the Unit. The Units offered are oriented toward developing skills related to personal health and well-being, work, independent living and numeracy and literacy. During Year 10, students still access their Home Groups, Religious Education, PLP (Personal Learning Plan) and Life Skills classes, plus other subjects of choice.

In Years 11 and 12 students tend to have less contact with school subjects but more contact with wider community activities specifically related to post school work and leisure options as well as continued participation in SACE Units. Where needed, the staff of the Mary MacKillop Unit will accompany students to lessons.

SACE (South Australian Certificate of Education)

SACE Credits may be comprised through the flexible learning opportunities such as Integrated Learning, Community Studies or SACE Modified subjects designed to allow students with identified intellectual disabilities to demonstrate their learning in a range of challenging and achievable learning experiences to meet their individual goals.

Subjects completed may be in the areas of:

- English
- Math
- Health and Recreation
- Foods
- Work Education
- Personal Learning Plan
- Research Project

Assessment/Reports

Assessment is made continuously throughout the term. Areas covered include academic progress, social skills, appearance, punctuality, behaviour, attitude to work and independent living.

Written reports are sent to parents at the end of each term. Students have the option of being assessed on the 1–5 reporting system for students on Individual Education Plans/ Significantly Modified Programs. In addition, regular parent interviews are conducted and interviews can be arranged at any time.

Enrolment Procedure

All enquiries are to be directed to the College Registrar who will assist with information concerning the College and the Unit setting. If a placement within the Unit is the appropriate option, a transition program will be discussed to suit your child's needs and an Enrolment Support Plan for students with disabilities will be implemented.

