

## LEARNING AND TEACHING POLICY

### Purpose

Damascus College is a dynamic Christ-centred learning community committed to a culture of excellence that inspires students, develops staff, and values parents and families - and in so doing, encourages all to reach their potential and place in wider society.

The College is an integral part of the broader Catholic community in the Ballarat diocese. It provides progressive and innovative learning and teaching that maximise educational outcomes for all students. Damascus College is committed to quality professional learning for staff, to developing self-directed students inspired by high expectations, and to quality educational outcomes that are measured and evaluated (Damascus College Strategic Plan 2016-2020).

Damascus College will provide all students with learning opportunities that expand knowledge, skills and abilities through participation in a broad range of activities both within and beyond the school setting.

### Scope

This policy applies to all learning and teaching opportunities that are offered through the Damascus College community.

### Definitions

**Learning** is the process of acquiring and embedding new skills, knowledge, values and attitudes.

**Teaching** is the facilitation of purposeful and inclusive learning experiences.

### Policy Statement

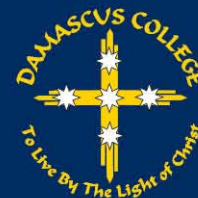
It is the policy of Damascus College that it will:

- deliver learning and teaching that reflects its Catholic identity and Mercy heritage;
- within the capacity of the College, provide diverse learning opportunities that address students' affinities and needs reflecting their experiences, knowledge, abilities, skills, interests and learning styles;
- promote an environment where excellence and endeavour are acknowledged and positive relationships developed;
- ensure a culture of excellence in learning and teaching;
- actively build partnerships between the school, home and the community to support successful learning and teaching; and
- address the individual learning needs of each young person within the capacity of the College.

### Consequences

The Catholic ethos and Mercy heritage will permeate all learning and teaching;

- students and staff will develop their capacity to become compassionate citizens who contribute to the global community;
- students and staff will explore new and innovative approaches in learning and teaching;



- students will participate in a range of differentiated learning activities within Damascus College and the broader community;
- staff will equip students to assume greater progressive responsibility for their own lifelong learning and pathways planning;
- learning will be enriched by the implementation of contemporary information and communication technology tools;
- Damascus College will acknowledge the achievement and endeavours of the Damascus College community;
- teaching staff will collaboratively plan, document, implement and evaluate learning and teaching programs;
- teaching staff will measure improvement in student learning using diverse assessment practices;
- teaching staff will utilise assessment data to inform future learning and teaching;
- staff will provide students and families with accurate and timely feedback that acknowledges achievement and guides future growth;
- staff will develop professional growth plans consistent with the College's Strategic Plan 2016-2020;
- staff will participate in formal (e.g. planned meetings and professional development sessions) and informal (e.g. professional readings, discussions and reflection) professional learning activities to enable them to enhance their role;
- teachers will plan excursions / incursions aligned with the learning programs of students to encourage a view that learning occurs most effectively in real-to-life contexts;
- parents, guardians and the broader community will be encouraged to be partners in learning and teaching;
- Damascus College will provide regular, timely and informative feedback to students and their families on learning; and
- Damascus College will implement and comply with all mandated policies and regulations pertaining to teaching and learning.

### **Responsibilities**

The Principal and Leadership Team are responsible for the implementation of this policy.

### **Associated Documents**

Disability Discrimination Act

Australian Curriculum Reporting Authority (ACARA)

Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)

Australian Quality Training Framework (AQTF)

Awakenings

AusVels website

Catholic Education Curriculum of Victoria (CECV) Curriculum Documentation

Damascus College Strategic Directions 2016-2020

Damascus College website – [www.damascus.vic.edu.au](http://www.damascus.vic.edu.au)

Department of Education and Training website

Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) Handbook

Victorian Teaching Institute (VIT) Professional Standards