Rationale

The College curriculum provides a Catholic education imbued with the Sionian charism. Opportunities for students to consider the other, live with hope, act with discernment and reconcile differences are integral aspects of the learning program. The curriculum aims to develop the whole person; intellectually, spiritually, emotionally and physically, and students are encouraged to use their talents to the best of their abilities and to strive for excellence. The learning program aims to develop lifelong learners who contribute to the creation of God’s kingdom on earth.

Principles

The College curriculum:

- Supports Catholic Education
- Is explicitly shaped by the Sionian charism
- Promotes excellence within the context of a supportive, challenging and contemporary learning and teaching environment
- Is innovative, planned and purposeful
- Is equitable, just and fair
- Is informed by best practice in the education of girls in a single sex environment
- Is informed by data to support individual needs and improve learning
- Is shaped by research into the practices that maximise student learning outcomes
- Provides appropriate and varied pathways that provide post school opportunities for students
- Is supported by strategic professional learning for staff and high standard facilities and resources
- Cultivates a reflective practice and research amongst all teachers

Implementation

- The direction and implementation of the curriculum is lead by the Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching together with the College Curriculum Team
- The study of Religious Education is compulsory for all students from Year 7 to Year 12
- Literacy and numeracy skills are promoted strongly and monitored regularly
- The College will promote contemporary learning by:
  - Ensuring the curriculum program provides learning opportunities that are rich, vigorous and relevant
  - Teaching explicit skills in ICT and digital technologies
  - Creating explicit documentation that scaffolds the learning process for all curriculum areas and year levels
  - Providing rich assessment tasks that enables the student to improve and learn
  - Enabling students to learn in a collaborative, supportive and safe environment
  - Ensuring the curriculum includes an inquiry focus and can respond to students needs
  - Encouraging innovation and creativity
- The curriculum is differentiated through documentation of explicit achievement levels for each subject, the use of assessment tasks which allow for multiple levels of achievement and facilitated by learning activities which allow for knowledge and skills to be developed for the mix of abilities within the class
OUR LADY OF SION COLLEGE

• Support the learner with opportunities that are personalised and meets their individual learning needs
• Provide a learning environment that connects students to local and global issues and experiences
• Provide the learner with core knowledge, skills and understanding in order to develop their ability to think, work creatively, communicate, collaborate, explore, experiment and create new knowledge
• Ensure the curriculum develops students’ contemporary literacy skills to enable them to communicate appropriately in a range of social contexts
• Enable the learner to develop a deep understanding about self, others and the world by exploring multiple perspectives that consider religious, social, cultural, political and ethical influences
• Provide opportunities to contribute to the community through taking action and commitment to service and justice
• Ensure the curriculum cultivates learning skills that encourage critical thinking, analysing, experiencing, researching, conceptualising and reflecting.
• Foster opportunities for students to take responsibility for their own learning
• Allow for enriching and contemporary learning through co-curricular activities
• VCE and VCAL qualifications are administered in accordance with VCAA policy and guidelines
• Year 7 to 12 Curriculum supports the State and National Curriculums through the Catholic Education Office guidelines
• Ensure curriculum is supported by the implementation of the College Assessment and Reporting Policy
• Student subject selection is planned and uses relevant student data to support students, parents and teachers in deciding courses of study for students
• The College has specific ‘Gifted and Talented’ and ‘Student Learning Support’ programs
• Ensure curriculum is planned, documented and reviewed annually
• Use various forms of data to inform teachers about the learning needs of the students in their classes and to monitor learning progress
• Ensure student learning is monitored in accordance with the College Achievement Policy
• Professional Learning is available for all staff to support their ability to implement the curriculum
• Teachers are provided with opportunities to reflect on their practice and to collaborate with other teachers in order to improve the curriculum and student learning outcomes

Review Date: 2018

Ratified by College Board on: March 2014