

## GRADE 6 – 9 MIDDLE YEARS CURRICULUM

Secondary School is a time of rapid intellectual, emotional, and physical growth. During this period, your child will become increasingly reflective about life, relationships, and school as they begin to make significant decisions about future study and career pathways.

In Middle School, which includes students in the five year groups from Grade 6 to Grade 10, your child's literacy and numeric skills will become more sophisticated as they are introduced to important disciplines, ideas, and learning styles.

The integrated approach to learning introduced in the Junior School will continue, particularly in the study of English and the humanities (Economics, Geography, and History). In addition, students will build on their knowledge and skills in communication, effective group work, and creative thinking.

From Years 6-10, the Australian curriculum (Victoria) is organised around three general categories, with different subjects and areas of learning in each category:

### **Discipline-based Learning:**

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- The Humanities (Economics, Geography, History)
- Languages other than English
- The Arts

### **Interdisciplinary Learning:**

- Communication
- Design, Creativity and Technology
- Information and Communications Technology
- Thinking Processes

### **Physical, Personal and Social Learning:**

- Health and Physical Education
- Interpersonal Development
- Personal Learning
- Civics and Citizenship

All students undertake the study of mathematics, science, and languages. Students develop healthy minds and bodies through health and physical education studies. The curriculum at this level provides opportunities for self-expression and personal development. Students are supported in developing strong interpersonal skills, self-awareness and confidence, and have the opportunity to take on leadership roles in the school.

<https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/foundation-10/Pages/default.aspx>

## Senior School Years 10, 11- 12

### Grade 10- PreIB

VISS Grade 10 is the penultimate year of the Australian curriculum. Australian curriculum is a holistic programme that offers a wide range of opportunities to develop key lifelong learning skills in students and most definitely prepares them for the Grade 11 and 12 studies at VISS. In addition to meeting the outcomes of the Australian curriculum, Grade 10 is designed as a preparatory year for Grades 11 and 12.

Students engage in learning and assessment tasks that are modelled on course content they will need to access in Grades 11 and 12. The structure of the courses is also designed to give students a solid foundation for their final two years in the senior school.

### Grade 11 & 12

Beginning Grade 11 is an important step for students as it represents their entry point into an adult learning environment, where excellence and innovation in learning and teaching continue to be prized.

At VISS we offer our senior students the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IBDP): an academically challenging and balanced program of education with final examinations that prepare students, normally aged 16 to 19, for success at university and life beyond. The program is normally taught over two years and has gained recognition and respect from the world's leading universities.

IBDP students study six courses at higher level or standard level, thus ensuring a breadth of experience in languages, social studies, the experimental sciences, and mathematics. In addition, the program has three core requirements that are included to broaden the educational experience and challenge students to apply their knowledge and understanding.

**The extended essay** is a requirement for students to engage in independent research through an in-depth study of a question relating to one of the subjects they are studying.

**Theory of Knowledge** is a course designed to encourage each student to reflect on the nature of knowledge by critically examining different ways of knowing (perception, emotion, language, and reason) and different kinds of knowledge (scientific, artistic, mathematical, and historical).

**Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)** requires that students actively learn from the experience of doing real tasks beyond the classroom.

Students can combine all three components, or do activities related to each one of them separately. Students take written examinations at the end of the program, which are marked by external IB examiners. Students also complete assessment tasks in the school, which are either initially marked by teachers and then moderated by external moderators, or sent directly to external examiners.

There is also an option for students not wishing to study the full diploma course to study certificate courses, which enable them to gain IB certificates for individual subjects that they study.

For further information about the IB and its programs, visit <https://www.ibo.org/>