



Mercedes College Curriculum Years 7 - 12



Key elements of our strategic direction are to:

- produce women who are confident, ethical leaders in our society, in their roles in the family, workplace and communities;
- give each member of the Mercedes Community the opportunity to articulate their purpose in life in the light of the Catholic and Mercy ethos we proclaim; and
- pursue excellence, build resilience and nurture each student to achieve her maximum potential.

*The Catholic School differs from those of other
education traditions because its vision
of the fully integrated human being is distinctive*

Mandate Letter of the Catholic Education Commission of WA

Religious Education

Mercedes College is first and foremost a Catholic School. Its story is one of total dedication to the witness of the values and teaching of the Gospel integrated with the tradition of Mercy. As such, the College acknowledges that the first Learning Area in a Catholic school curriculum is Religious Education. All students, regardless of religious persuasion, join in the Religious Education program which is designed not only to promote the knowledge and understanding of the Christian message, but also to meet the needs of young people as they embrace the religious challenges of life in the 21st Century.

The Perth Archdiocesan Religious Education Course produced by the Catholic Education Office of WA forms the core of the Religious Education program at Mercedes.

Religious Education Units

Year 7

A Trusting God Called to the Common Good	Created Individually Freed to Live Like Jesus	Gifted by the Spirit Lord of Life	No Greater Love Spirit of Truth
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Year 8

Belonging and Acceptance in Catholic Communities	The Universal Need for God	Creation – God's Original Plan	Growing in the Image of God
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Year 9

The Human Search for Truth	People Grow Stronger Spiritually	People Can Achieve Emotional Peace	Christian Love and Sexuality
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Year 10

Vocation – Called to Be and Become	The Search for Freedom	Recognising God's Call Through Conscience	Christian Social Justice
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Year 11

Why Religion	People and Religion
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Year 12

The Road Ahead – The Christian's Call to the World	Relationships, Family & Marriage – Love One Another as I have Loved You	Celebrating Freedom – We are Called to be Free
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Catechesis

Together with Religious Education, the College supports the family and the parish in offering catechesis in the form of school and class liturgies, classroom prayer activities, retreats and the celebration of other religious festivals. The honouring of Our Lady of Mercy is a particular focus in the life of Mercedes College.

Christian Service Learning

Service features significantly in the day to day life of the school. All students participate in a graded series of experiences, both on a volunteer basis and as part of the overall Christian service program from years seven through to twelve. Activities range from school-based to work at selected placements in the wider community.

Curriculum Framework

The academic curriculum at Mercedes College is structured around the State Government mandated *Curriculum Framework*.

"The Curriculum Framework sets out what all students should know, understand, value and be able to do as a result of the programs they undertake in schools in Western Australia, from kindergarten through to year twelve. Its fundamental purpose is to provide a structure around which schools can build educational programs that ensure students achieve agreed outcomes". (Curriculum Framework 1997)

The Curriculum Framework establishes learning outcomes for all students. Subjects offered at Mercedes are structured around providing opportunities for students to achieve across nine Learning Areas:- **Religious Education, The Arts, English, Health and Physical Education, Languages, Mathematics, Science, Society and Environment, and Technology and Enterprise.**

(For more information visit the Curriculum Council website at: www.curriculum.wa.edu.au)

Year Seven Subjects

Students commence their secondary education with a broad curriculum and a focus on pastoral care. Students remain as homeroom groups for the study of **Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Society and Environment, Physical and Health Education, Information Technology and Research Skills, and French or Italian**. They also receive specialist teaching in **Art, Drama, Music, Technology and Enterprise: Fabrics, and Technology and Enterprise: Foods** for one period each per week. There is an emphasis on numeracy and literacy skills and extra assistance is provided via our **Functional Literacy Program** and our **Learning Support** teachers. A **Participation Community Problem Solving Project** operates to challenge and extend the skills for selected students.

Year Eight Subjects

Students continue their secondary education with a wide-ranging course of studies focusing on **Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science and Society and Environment** and a choice between the Language subjects of **French and Italian**. Students are also provided with opportunities to achieve outcomes in "introductory" semester length courses of **Art, Technology and Enterprise: Fabrics, Information Technology, Drama, Technology and Enterprise: Foods, Physical Education, Health Education and Music**.

Year Nine and Ten Subjects

Students continue to progress through higher levels of outcomes offered by **Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Society and Environment, Science and Physical and Health Education**. As well as these focus areas, students select **six and eight** periods of elective subjects per week in years nine and ten respectively. These are drawn from **Art, Art and Design, Business Studies, Caring for Children, Technology and Enterprise: Fabrics, Drama, Technology and Enterprise: Foods, French, Information Technology, Italian, Leisure for Living, Music, Media Production and Physical Education Studies**. Some year ten electives operate as four period offerings and gain credit towards Secondary Graduation and the Western Australian Certificate of Education.

Year Eleven and Twelve Subjects

All subjects offered at Mercedes College in years eleven and twelve are fully accredited by the Curriculum Council of Western Australia and contribute towards students graduating with the **Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE)**.

- **Tertiary Entrance Scoring (TES) Subjects – These will cease operating after 2009**
At a Year 12 level these subjects can be used to establish University entrance eligibility and are examined externally in the Tertiary Entrance Examinations.
- **Wholly School Assessed (WSA) Subjects - These will cease operating after 2009**
All WSA subjects are assessed internally by the school and contribute towards the WACE. These subjects are particularly useful as a preparation for study at TAFE.
- **Courses of Study**
Courses of Study were introduced in 2006 and will replace both Tertiary Entrance Scoring Subjects and Wholly School Assessed subjects by the start of 2010. Courses are defined at Stages 1, 2 and 3 and are often structured into semester units. Courses at Stage 2 and 3 will be externally examined at the end of year twelve and can be used to calculate a Tertiary Entrance Score for year twelve students. Courses at all stages can be used for TAFE entrance and graduation purposes.

- **Vocational Education and Training**

Structured Workplace Learning

Mercedes College offers students in year eleven and twelve Structured Workplace Learning opportunities where students work for one day each week in a self-selected industry placement. Students gain accreditation towards the WACE as they are enrolled in Workplace Learning which is a Course of Study. If sufficient hours are undertaken students can also use their placement as an endorsed program. (For more information visit the INSTEP website at: www.instep.wa.edu.au.)

Certificates

Currently students enrolled in Workplace Learning can also earn a Certificate 1 in Work Preparation while those enrolled in Career and Enterprise can receive a Certificate 1 in Business.

The charts below show the accredited subjects offered to students in years eleven and twelve at Mercedes College. Students with a university career in mind are required to study an English Course or Literature at Stage 2 or 3 together with four *other subjects*, three of which must be Courses at Stage 2 (or higher). Students with Graduation or TAFE in mind must study an English Course, or Literature, together with four *other subjects*. All students study Religious Education. Religion and Life as of year eleven, 2009, is a Course of Study.

Summary of Year 11 & Year 12 offerings for 2010

Learning Area	Course of Study
Religious Education	Religion and Life
The Arts	Dimensional Design Drama Media Production & Analysis Music Visual Arts
English	English Literature
Health and Physical Education	Physical Education Studies
Languages	Italian French
Mathematics	Mathematics Mathematics Specialist
Society and Environment	Economics Geography Modern History Politics and Law
Science	Biological Sciences Chemistry Human Biological Sciences Physics
Technology and Enterprise	Applied Information Technology Accounting & Finance
Technology and Enterprise (Home Economics)	Children, Family & the Community Food Science & Technology Materials Design & Technology
Vocational Education and Training	Structured Workplace Learning Career & Enterprise

Compassion

Excellence

Justice

Integrity

Service