

Dookie Campus Secondary School

Specialised ASD Education in Dookie, Victoria



Parent / Carer Information 2019

DOOKIE CAMPUS
8 Ridge Road Dookie College Vic 3647
PO Box 715, Mansfield 3724 Vic Australia
dookie@autismmansfield.org.au
P(03) 5828 6480

ABN 14 006 171 580 Registered School No. 1935



**Mansfield
Autism**
Statewide Services

About Us

Dookie Campus Secondary School is an Independent School and a Campus of Mansfield Autism Statewide Services. The school caters for students aged between 11 and 18 years of age with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and no significant Intellectual Disability. There is a strong emphasis on building the necessary skills to develop resilience and to manage 'life' in the broadest sense.



VISION:

MASS is highly regarded independent organisation that delivers innovative educational and training programs for people with ASD and other disabilities from infancy to adulthood. We empower the individual and their families to live independent, inclusive and productive lives through the provision of individually tailored programs.

MASS is committed to:

- Upholding and protecting the rights of all services users, especially children, to act in their interests and ensure they are provided with a safe environment that protects against abuse and neglect, and respects their cultural diversity and heritage.
- Complying with all relevant legislative obligations and maintaining a financially sustainable organisation
- Continuous quality improvement. We will review the performance of the organisation on a regular basis and all staff and encouraged to contribute energy and ideas to our improvement processes. We will review our policies, procedures and practices on a regular basis and be open to scrutiny to ensure we provide the highest quality service
- Providing opportunities for service users, their families and advocates to be part of the decision making processes for the organisation's direction and the programs it provides.

MASS is also committed to equal rights for all before the law, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and association, and the values of openness and tolerance.

FOUNDING STATEMENT: PHILOSOPHY

"The client with Autism's family are their most important teachers, and we aim to give them the understanding, the confidence and the determination necessary for the successful parenting of their child/adult"

"That is our goal and nothing less is enough."
Joan Curtis "Autism ... a Family Affair"

About Us

MISSION STATEMENT:

Mansfield Autism Statewide Services is a unique and highly regarded, skilled service in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorders. It exists to provide expertise, education and empowerment to individuals with an ASD, their families and other service providers. Through the provision of education, consultancy and support, in homes, schools and community organisations in Victoria. It will achieve recognition and acceptance by governments, families and professionals as a proven and sustainable model of excellence.

OBJECTIVES:

This school aims to provide a dynamic learning culture that promotes integrity, innovation and the individual. We aim for and value:

- A safe and supportive environment for all students to meet their full potential
- Integrity and honesty in our actions and relationships
- Diversity in our curriculum that is tailored to suit the individual
- Strong and open communication between our school and our homes, and between our teachers out students and our families
- A commitment to social justice and a passion to protect and improve our environment and our community

DEMOCRATIC & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Mansfield Autism Services supports and promotes the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- * elected government
- * the rule of law
- * equal rights for all before the law
- * freedom of religion
- * *freedom of speech and association*
- * *the values of openness and tolerance*

Mansfield Autism Statewide Services complies with all reporting requirements under Commonwealth and State funding agreements and makes available on request reports on all aspects of our organisations performance to members of the school community .

Mansfield Autism Statewide Services are committed to promoting and protecting at all times the best interests of children and young people involved in its programs. Any child having contact with Mansfield Autism Statewide Service, has the right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse.

Our Curriculum

Victorian Curriculum

Anxiety Management

Social Skills

Health & Wellbeing

Individualised Education Plan

The program at Dookie Secondary School Campus is individual and flexible. We have a strong emphasis on health and wellbeing, building relationships and building a students confidence in learning.

The school is committed to offering students a safe and supportive environment which allows students a chance to explore a range of activities and interest areas. The curriculum is generally based on the following learning and capabilities areas of the Victorian Curriculum but is not limited to. The curriculum is flexible to meet the needs of our students.

- 1. ENGLISH**
- 2. MATHEMATICS**
- 3. HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
- 4. THE ARTS**
- 5. TECHNOLOGIES**
- 6. HUMANITIES**
- 7. SCIENCE**

CAPABILITIES

- Intercultural Capabilities
- Personal and Social Capabilities
- Critical and Creative Thinking
- Ethical Capability

Specialist teachers take students in music, therapeutic art lessons. and yoga.



The program has an overall focus on building student strengths. We emphasise the development of skills for general health and wellbeing to enhance positive behaviour and self esteem. Our curriculum has a strong focus on personal and social development within the capabilities framework.

Planning for transition to further education and employment opportunities is an integral part of the educational process.

The students are in groups of six, overseen by a teacher and an assistant. Individual Learning Plans will form the basis for each student's specific goals and the evaluation process is linked to six monthly team meetings.

Our Core Curriculum

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM PERSONAL & SOCIAL CAPABILITIES

The Personal and Social Capability is essential in enabling students to understand themselves and others, and manage their relationships, lives, work and learning more effectively. The capability involves students learning to recognise and regulate emotions, develop empathy for others and understand relationships, establish and build a framework for positive relationships, work effectively in teams and develop leadership skills, and handle challenging situations constructively.

The Personal and Social Capability supports students in becoming creative and confident individuals with a sense of self-worth, self-awareness and personal identity that enables them to manage their emotional, mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing, with a sense of hope and optimism about their lives and the future. On a social level, it helps students to form and maintain healthy relationships and prepares them for their potential life roles as family, community and workforce members.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health and Physical Education focuses on students enhancing their own and others' health, safety, wellbeing and physical activity participation in varied and changing contexts.

Students have the opportunity to be involved in a wide range of activities that aim to increase their movement and physical activity skills. The program acknowledges student strengths and develops their physical, mental, social and emotional health. Exposure to such activities assists with expanding the student's leisure and recreational opportunities within their community.

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM ENGLISH

The study of English is central to the learning and development of all young Australians. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens. It is through the study of English that individuals learn to analyse, understand, communicate and build relationships with others and with the world around them. The study of English helps young people develop the knowledge and skills needed for education, training and the workplace. It helps them become ethical, thoughtful, informed and active members of society and plays an important part in developing the understanding, attitudes and capabilities of those who will take responsibility for Australia's future.

Reading, writing, speaking and listening are all vital skills for personal, social and vocational development.

MATHS

Mathematics provides students with access to important mathematical ideas, knowledge and skills that they will draw on in their personal and work lives. The curriculum also provides students, as life-long learners, with the basis on which further study and research in mathematics and applications in many other fields are built. Number, measurement and geometry, statistics and probability are common aspects of most people's mathematical experience in everyday personal, study and work situations. Equally important are the essential roles that algebra, functions and relations, logic, mathematical structure and working mathematically play in people's understanding of the natural and human worlds, and the interaction between them.



Curriculum Overview

The school program offered is flexible to ensure that individual student needs are met. All students are attending for specific programs and it is essential that the program is flexible to cater for these differences. We are child focused and are passionate about exploring a students interest areas and build capacity in independence. In order to meet student needs, the teachers work within a curriculum framework which reflects the Mansfield Autism Statewide Services philosophy and therapeutic needs of the client.



Where applicable, the program also reflects the Victorian Curriculum which is offered by the Department of Education. Clients who attend our school will have specific goals that are reflected in the individual learning plan. Most of our clients will be attending Dookie Campus due to the considerable difficulties they have experienced in more traditional education settings.

Victorian Curriculum - Core

English, Maths

- Individualised
- Self Expression
- Cooking
- Shopping
- Literacy - Reading / Writing
- Communication Programs
- Information Technologies
- Excursions

Health & PE

- Relaxation / Yoga
- Excercise and wellbeing
- Self Help / Life Skills
- Personal Development
- Positive Self Esteem
- Netball
- Sailability
- Food Technology

Capabilities

- Social and Emotional Intelligence
- Emotion Regulation
- Behavioural Responses
- Social Communication Skills
- Choice Making
- Expressive / Receptive Communication skills
- Intercultural
- Ethical Decision Making
- Critical & Creative Thinking

Further learning areas

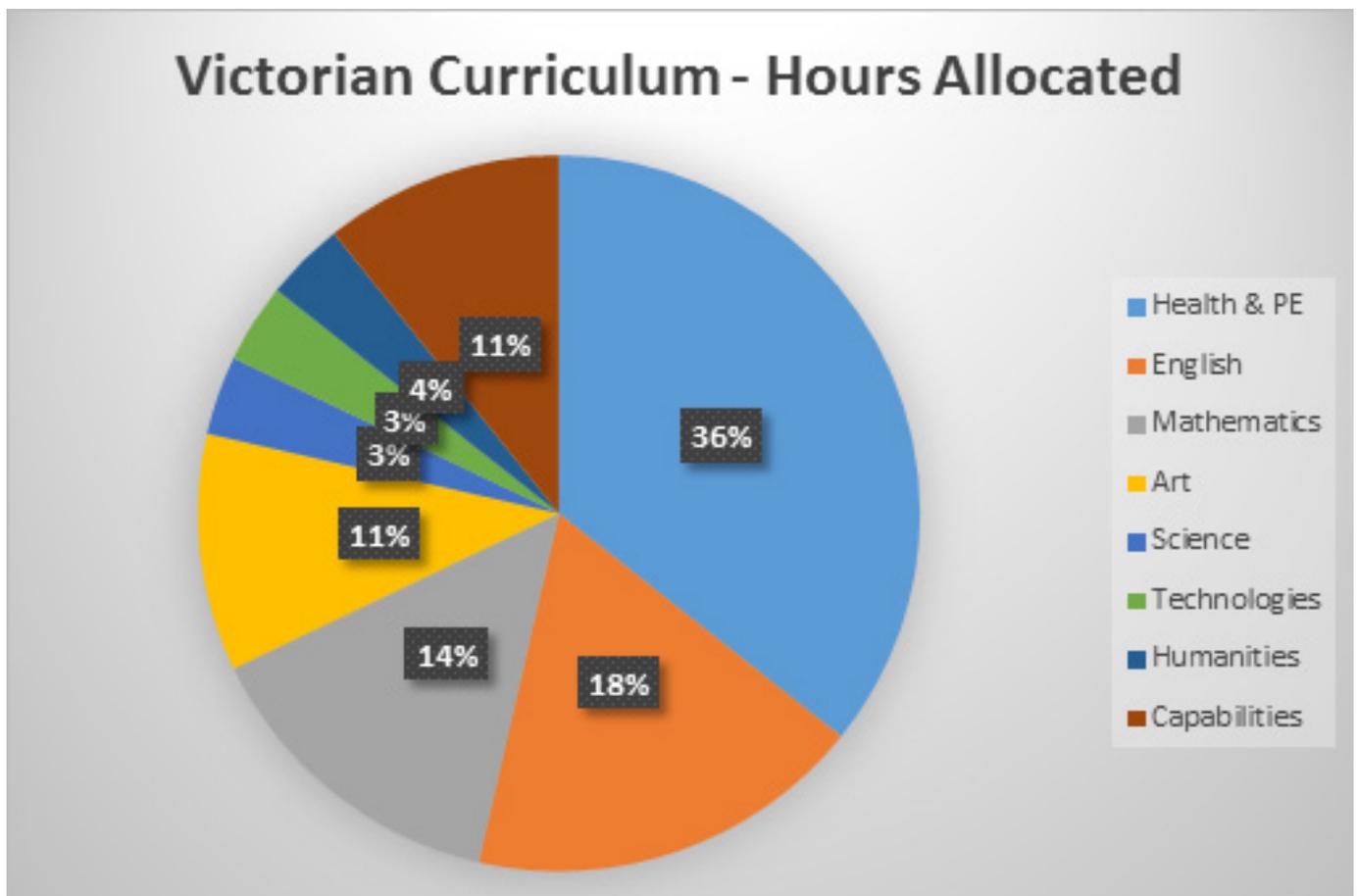
- STEM
- Music
- Art - Visual
- Art - Music
- Digital Technologies
- Humanities
- Work Experience



Time Allocation

Allocation of time across key learning areas

Our curriculum is reflective of the health and wellbeing needs of our students. Our Dookie campus curriculum encompasses seven curriculum learning areas of the Victorian Curriculum Framework. We do not teach languages. The seven curriculum areas are Health & PE, English, Mathematics, Art, Science, Technologies, Humanities and the Capabilities. We allocate 36 % of our curriculum (hours allocated) towards the Health and PE curriculum – this framework builds on students physical and movement skills, mental health and wellbeing, personal development and food nutrition. Students spend approximately 4 – 5 hours per week with explicit teaching of English however we also incorporate English within other areas of the curriculum and through community engagement activities. The Dookie curriculum proportions 3 to 4 hours a week of explicit teaching of the Mathematics framework, however we again integrate Math into our other curriculum areas and our community engagement activities. The Art curriculum at Dookie for 2019 will focus on Visual Arts & Music. Students spend approx. 1 – 2hrs working towards the Humanities, Science and Technologies learning areas per week. The capabilities are also taught with the personal and social capability being a focus for our cohort of students.



General Information

FEE STRUCTURE AND PAYMENT

Price on application. Term fees are approximately \$2,800 or \$11,200 per year.

School Times -Term Dates and other Holidays

The school day is from 9am to 2.45 pm. Dookie runs on the Victorian School Holiday dates – with an additional week mid- year. Approximately two days per term are allocated to student free days for staff to be involved in Professional Development, Report Writing and Planning.

Parent concerns

Parent teacher interviews are conducted at the end of each semester. Parents can contact staff at Dookie regarding any day to day queries. Any further queries regarding policies and procedures or unresolved issues can be directed to Simone Reeves at Mansfield Autism Statewide Services – P: 03 5775 2876.

Newsletters

Newsletters are distributed to families each Friday.

Policies

A copy of Dookie's Curriculum and Policies is kept on file at the Dookie Office.

Lunches

Students are required to bring their own fresh fruit snack, lunch and water bottle. To keep in line with Dookie's Health and Wellbeing Curriculum we request that students be provided with a healthy lunch. We have kitchen facilities available for students. Students need to bring a drink bottle (water only).

Transport

We provide bus transport from Shepparton – the cost of this is covered by the Conveyance Allowance.

Car Pool

Staff have a staff meeting on Wednesday afternoons. There will be a car pool roster for all families. When rostered on you will be required to pick students up from Dookie School at 2.45pm on Wednesdays. Each family should expect to be rostered on twice to three times per term.

Uniform

White or navy polo shirt/top, black pants/shorts and red jumper/sweater and runners or other comfortable footwear. Brimmed hats must be worn in first and fourth terms.

CONTACT US

DOOKIE CAMPUS

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