

THE ARTS POLICY

RATIONALE

The Arts provides a range of unique experiences for all students at Melbourne Girls' College which are essential to their total development as individuals, students and as members of a community.

The Arts allows students to explore, interpret and express their world, themselves and their position and relationship to others via a wide variety of creative media.

The study of Arts is essential to the development of the aesthetic awareness and perception of the individual and group social and cultural identities.

PURPOSE

- ◆ The Arts provides for the intellectual and expressive potential of students through aural, spatial, kinaesthetic, vocal, visual, interpersonal and intrapersonal experiences. Melbourne Girls' College ensures that students have access to a broad range of arts experiences and art forms.
- ◆ The Arts Discipline Learning Team (DLT) ensures students are encouraged to expand their Arts experiences and, through enjoyment and success, choose to extend their learning in the Arts through VCE studies and further education.
- ◆ The Arts provides students with a framework and outlet for questioning assumptions and orthodoxies about themselves, their world and the world around them. It provides students with the opportunity to express their ideas, feelings and beliefs in a range of art forms.
- ◆ The Arts enables students to develop a heightened quality of sensory awareness and perception of their world.
- ◆ The Arts also enable students to increase their knowledge, understanding and sensitivity to art forms made in their own and other cultures.
- ◆ A study of the Arts at Melbourne Girls' College facilitates an integrated approach across Learning Areas and, by its nature, is inter-disciplinary.

GUIDELINES

- ◆ The Arts program offers a wide range of experiences through Middle School with a core range of studies in both visual and performing arts. These include an integrated approach to the Performing Arts at year 9. Opportunities exist to specialise in years 9 & 10 with electives in Animation, Art, Drama, Dance, Media, Music, Photography and Visual Communication. Further specialisation occurs at VCE level.
- ◆ The personal resources of the student's imagination, identification, spontaneity and creativity are fostered in all units in accordance with *Victorian Essential Learning Standards* between year levels 7-10 and through *VCE study designs* at year levels 11 and 12. This occurs both within the Arts Domain and via the Interdisciplinary strands. The Arts at MGC conforms to the principles and tenets of the Australian Curriculum.
- ◆ Students are catered for, both within and outside the classroom, by the College which provides both the necessary resources and the opportunity for students to achieve their artistic goals. The program utilizes a variety of strategies in teaching and learning; it actively involves students in their learning; builds on students' experiences and interests,

links theory to practice (and vice versa); fosters communication and cooperation in learning and encourages creative risk taking.

- ◆ Students are encouraged to pursue creative learning through the use of a broad range of contemporary learning technologies across all strands in the Arts.
- ◆ Teaching staff are encouraged to pursue Professional Development in order to maintain excellent teaching practices, particularly in the area of learning technologies.
- ◆ Skills of analysing, interpreting, comparing and judging different kinds of images, sounds, movements and visual stimuli are an integral part of Arts teaching.
- ◆ Students are encouraged by means of illustration, investigation, demonstration and both individual and group activity, to appreciate the links between the theoretical, cultural and practical approaches taken to the courses.
- ◆ Teachers undertake reporting procedures to parents on a regular basis including written and verbal reporting.
- ◆ Homework Requirements: Homework varies according to the disciplines. Skill based subjects such as Instrumental Music and Dance require regular and prolonged practice on a daily basis. In general, the Arts take an “as needed” approach to homework at middle school. Work started in class may need to be finished at home. Research assignments and theoretical pieces as well as artworks and assignments that engage families and the community are undertaken regularly. By senior years the Arts has an expectation that students will be engaging in regular homework that supports both their theory and practice. Homework tasks will be posted online.

CORE VALUES

Diversity, excellence and teamwork.