



Some background information

Rossbourne School is an independent, co-educational, non-denominational Special School for secondary students – years 7-12. The student population is approximately 130 students.

Although Rossbourne is a Special School, it is not a traditional Special School. It is best described as sitting between a mainstream and traditional Special School, whose student required an IQ under 70 for enrolment.

The majority of our students have assessed IQs above 70 and some capacity for independent learning. The teachers at Rossbourne specifically assists students (all have diagnosed and identifiable learning disabilities) to achieve their full potential, educationally and socially. Nearly all of our students go on to various TAFE courses and some will gain employment and apprenticeships.

Rossbourne's purpose is to enhance the life chances of students and create opportunities to develop independence, social connections, resilience and respectful relationships. We nurture student's self-worth and confidence and empower them to realise and build on their strengths so they may achieve their personal, social and educational goals.

We draw from a broad geographical area and the majority of students travel to school independently via public transport. Maximising independence is one of our main priorities.

Most students start at Rossbourne between 12 and 14 years of age. An Individual Learning Program is established for each student. All students study core academic curricular, with much emphasis given to fostering friendships and developing social skills.

Students are placed in Homeroom groups of 12. Pastoral care is provided by the homeroom teacher and a range of subject and specialist teachers across the school.

Parents are a welcome, vital part of the School community and the open communication between parents and staff, assists greatly in meeting the needs of students.

Curricular

Curriculum is modified and differentiated via Individual Learning Plans, so all Rossbourne students access our full curricular and co-curricular offerings.

Years 7-10:

Numeracy: All strands of mathematics are studied with particular focus given to: Establishment and consolidation of the four processes and practical applications including money skills and reading as well as managing time. Group sizes are generally 6-8 students.

Literacy: Development of reading, spelling, writing, speaking and listening skills. Much of this work is done in smaller groups of approximately 6-8.

General Studies: Thematic units of work are set each term, based around people and their environment. General Studies also includes Science topics.

Adolescent Health: Topics include – personal health, nutrition, safety, the human body, sexuality, relationships, decision making and drug education. A weekly Social Skills program is an integral part of this curriculum.

All students also undertake the following specialist subjects:

Art, Drama/Music, Library (finding and utilizing resources), Food Technology, Information Technology, Materials Technology, Living Skills and Sport.

In years 7 and 8 all students participate in a weekly swimming program to develop their water safety skills, swimming technique and fitness. These sessions are conducted offsite.

Our educational camping program provides students with experiences away from home. The program helps students to develop independence, friendships and co-operation in small and large group activities.

Senior School (Years 11 and 12)

VCAL: All Rossbourne students are enrolled in the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) – Foundation course when they become Senior School students. (In 2023 VCAL – Foundation will change to the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC))

VCAL aims to provide the skills, knowledge and attributes to enable students to make informed choices about pathways for work and further education. This course also provides opportunities for personal development, students' interests and pathways for senior secondary students, in the context of applied learning.

All Rossbourne Senior students have the option of enrolling in Vocational Education and Training (VET) programs, which are nationally recognised vocational certificates and may be integrated within the VCAL. School Based Apprenticeships and our Structured Work Education Program is also available to all Senior School students.