PROUDLY PROVIDING EXCELLENCE IN DEAF EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS IN FOUNDATION THROUGH TO YEAR 12.

VICTORIAN COLLEGE FOR THE DEAF

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“Victorian College for the Deaf graduates will have the choice to go where there is no path and leave their trail.”

- college vision

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Hello and welcome to Victorian College for the Deaf.

You have certainly picked an exciting time to engage with Victorian College for the Deaf. Our college has been identified as a system leader because of our high achievements for students over the past three years.

We are extremely proud of the literacy and numeracy pathways we offer students. At VCD we understand the importance of communication and being able to use Auslan and English (written and spoken) to communicate. We value both languages and use both in our instructional practice throughout the college. Of course, our other subjects are tailored to meet the variety of learners we have at VCD.

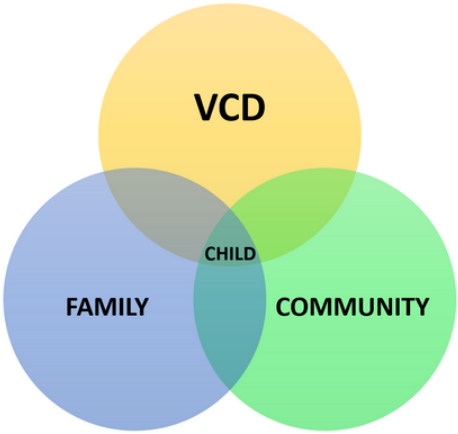
Our school is family oriented. Parent information evenings on topics important to raising a deaf child are regularly on offer. Our teaching and wellbeing team are available to help every family, and every child, succeed.

Starting primary school is full of new experiences. We are ready to welcome you and support you and your child through this journey. Dream big. Visit us. Ask lots of questions. We hope you like what you see and decide to join our VCD family.

Sincerely,
Marg Tope
Principal

WHY CHOOSE VCD?

- Full time instruction from teachers of deaf children who are leading specialists in their field
- Tailored curriculum to meet the learning needs of students in English and/or Auslan
- Small class sizes to support closing the gap and/or enrich learning and educational experiences
- Regular assessment and data tracking to support individualised student learning growth
- Strong focus on developing identity, wellbeing and personal strengths
- Auslan for Families program for family members to support family communication
- Access to allied health professionals including a Social Worker, Speech Pathologists and visiting Audiologists
- Access to wellbeing team with specialised knowledge in raising deaf children, family engagement and the NDIS
- Opportunity for friendships with 'like' peers and deaf role models
- Inclusive communication and belonging across the college



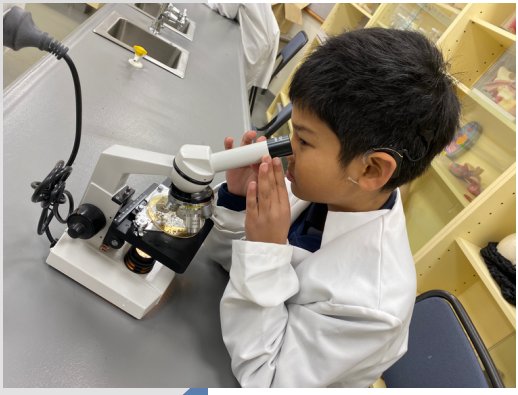
Victorian College for the Deaf is child centred. We recognise the importance of the school, family and community as central to a child becoming literate and having a great education.

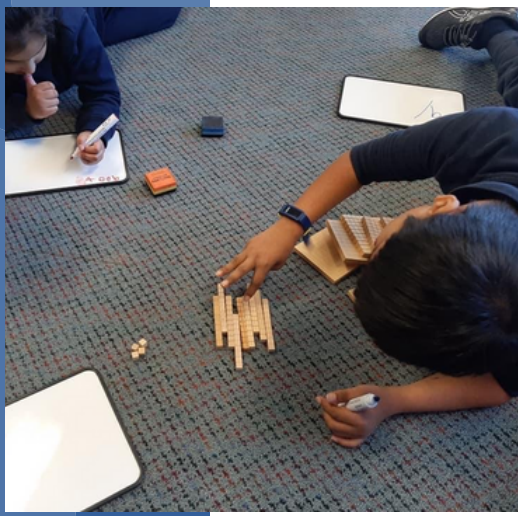
Our stunning campus is located within moments of Melbourne CBD.

Often, mainstream education settings have limited or no specialised teacher of the deaf support. Classrooms are designed for hearing students, and classes are larger and louder. It is easy to get lost and forgotten in a classroom like this. The pace of delivery in mainstream settings with the amount new language and new concepts, make it difficult for deaf students to keep up. As a result, students may start to fall behind and gaps in their learning may occur. This can have an ongoing negative impact on their educational outcomes and wellbeing.

At Victorian College for the Deaf, no student is left behind. Our tailored program ensures every student is supported and challenged with achieving their learning outcomes. Our teachers are expert educators who set high standards for our students and support them to meet their full potential.

LEARNING





Our priority at VCD is for students to be numerate and literate. The earlier students learn to read, the earlier they can begin reading to learn.

We have developed a strong literacy and numeracy curriculum that is delivered through the Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI) model. This model has produced outstanding results since its implementation. Our languages of instruction in the classroom are Auslan and spoken/written English. Literacy programs are supported by our in-house Speech Pathologist.

In addition to 16 hours of literacy and numeracy instruction per week, students engage in a variety of other subjects. Specialist teachers deliver programs in Art, Auslan, Health, Sport, Integrated Studies, and Respectful Relationships.

Our small class sizes enable an intimate learning environment that can be adjusted along the way to meet changing learning needs. We maintain a core primary teaching team to optimise learning and provide consistency for younger students.

Foundation to Grade 2 Curriculum		
Subject	**Time allocation per week**	**Hours per week**
English/Literacy	10 sessions	8.5 hrs
Maths	8 sessions	7 hrs
Sport and Physical Education	4 sessions	3.5 hrs
Art	2 sessions	1.75 hrs
Integrated Studies	2 sessions	1.75 hrs
Auslan	1 session	0.75 hrs
Health	1 session	0.75 hrs
Respectful Relationships	1 session	0.75 hrs
Information Communication Technology (ICT)	1 session	0.75 hrs

To watch [the staff] engage, communicate and lead the children is simply inspiring. They are an amazing bunch of people. They are amazing teachers that are proficient education professionals and that should not be lost in the emotion of my observations, but it is the care and ultimately the respect that they have for the children that blows me away.

- VCD parent testimonial

STUDENT SUPPORT

AUDIOLOGY

VCD engages an Audiologist from Hearing Australia to provide routine testing and maintenance of equipment for our students. This enables students to maintain their hearing health with minimal disruption to learning time.

SPEECH THERAPY

The college employs a qualified Speech Pathologist who is our Literacy Leader. The speech pathology role at VCD is to work in classrooms alongside teachers enriching the teaching & learning of students.

WELLBEING

Our teachers and wellbeing professionals work with students to ensure that they feel safe, engaged and empowered to learn at school. We provide individualized support for students and where needed we organize referrals for specialised services. We also work with parents to enrich parenting skills, with a focus on strengthening the child's emotional wellbeing.

NDIS

The NDIS system can be overwhelming to navigate. Our wellbeing team are committed to ensuring students have access to the necessary supports, in order for them to thrive both in and out of the schooling environment. The wellbeing team can support families to navigate the NDIS process, and can provide information about applying for the NDIS, creating a plan, and reviewing the plan and goals.

COMMUNITY

PARENTS AS PARTNERS

At VCD we engage with our parents as partners to provide wrap around support for our students. Through active engagement with families we explore important parenting matters, we learn from each other, and develop strategies to improve student's wellbeing and learning.

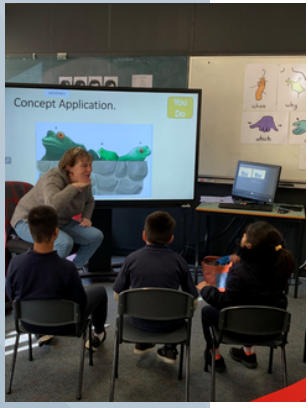
PARENT EVENTS

We host parent information evenings each term. Parents can opt for face-to-face participation or participate via ZOOM. This enables parents the opportunity to learn and share together in the comfort of their own homes. Our events are informed by our parents, so topics are relevant and meaningful. Examples include: *Teaching and Learning at VCD*, *Your Access to NDIS Support and Services, Cyber-Safety* and *Your Child's Emotional Growth and Wellbeing*.

AUSLAN FOR FAMILIES

VCD's Auslan for Families is an engaging, enjoyable and a relaxed learning program that has been developed with parents. It doesn't matter if you have little or no previous knowledge of Auslan (Australian Sign Language) because you will learn basic conversational skills and vocabulary frequently used by families.

OUR CAMPUS



Situated within moments of the CBD, the Victorian College for the Deaf is centrally located in the heart of Melbourne's inner city. With ample green space on campus and Fawkner Park, MSAC and Albert Park Lake all within walking distance, our students are spoilt for choice.

All teaching and learning spaces are equipped with state of the art smart screen technology, and students have access to ipads, laptops and desktops during class time.

Our campus is bursting with life all year round thanks to our productive garden. Students grow a range of seasonal fruits, herbs and vegetables. Other specialised learning spaces across the school include an art studio, bike education space, hospitality kitchen and science lab.

In 2020, the Victorian Government committed 10 million dollars to upgrading the college's infrastructure and facilities. We are excited to share this journey with our community, and further establish VCD as a centre for deaf excellence.

VCD INITIATIVES

TRADEBLOCK CAFE

Tradeblock Cafe is an authentic work environment and Deaf space open to the public. Tradeblock offers a hands on program where VCD students experience a range of roles and responsibilities including barista, kitchen hand, dish hand, customer service and cleaning. Tradeblock is open Tuesday to Friday, 8:30am - 2:30pm during the school term - come in for a coffee and some lunch!

ABLOCK BIKE SHOP

A dual purpose onsite facility, Ablock trains secondary VCD students in Bicycle Mechanical Technology, and provides them with work experience in a supported environment. Ablock is open to the public Wednesday to Friday for bicycle services and repairs. Additionally, Ablock provides a comprehensive bicycle education program for all primary school students. Students learn how to ride bikes, and remain safe while doing so.

URBAN BLOCK GARDEN

Our most recent endeavour, Urban Block Garden Enterprise, aims to equip students with skills in sustainable horticulture practices and food production. Urban Block will work closely with Tradeblock Cafe to establish a 'paddock to plate' food system.

CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS

Our camping and excursion program is an extension of our teaching and learning program. Camps and excursions support our school curriculum by taking knowledge built in the classroom, and applying it to high engagement off-campus environments. In a supported setting, students are encouraged to build interpersonal skills and develop their independence, team work and social skills.

At VCD, our camps are underpinned by three areas of the Victorian Curriculum - Personal and Social Capability, Respectful Relationships and PE & Health - with a specific focus on:

- Emotional literacy
- Personal strengths
- Positive coping

TRANSPORTATION

Students attending the College could be eligible for the Students with Disabilities Transport Program (STDP). Through this program, students may be eligible to access assistance in travelling to and from school.

Taxi travel

- A number of our students travel to the college on group taxis. The taxis will pick up and drop off students at a neutral public location (e.g. bus stop).
- To be eligible, students must live a minimum of 4.8 km from the college, but within reasonable travelling parameters (the taxi service cannot begin prior to 7:00 am).
- The college will support parents/carers in making applications to the Department of Education for transport assistance.
- If a student moves home address and requires a new pick up location, the application process must begin again.

Private car travel

- If a parent wishes to drive their child to school themselves, they could be eligible for a sum of money to put towards petrol expenses. To be eligible, students must live at least 4.8 km from the college. Applications are made to the Student Transport Unit.

Public transport travel

- If you wish for your child to come to school on public transport, they may be eligible for free myki travel. To be eligible, VCD students must live at least 4.8 km from school, and not be accessing the taxi service.
- If your child continues with VCD into secondary school, they will be encouraged to move into public transport travel. It is a great way for students to build resilience, independence and life skills.

THE NEXT STEPS...

CAMPUS TOURS

We welcome all families to visit our college campus. Contact the VCD office by phone (03 9510 1706) or email (victorian.ds@education.vic.gov.au) to book in for a campus tour with our college Principal.

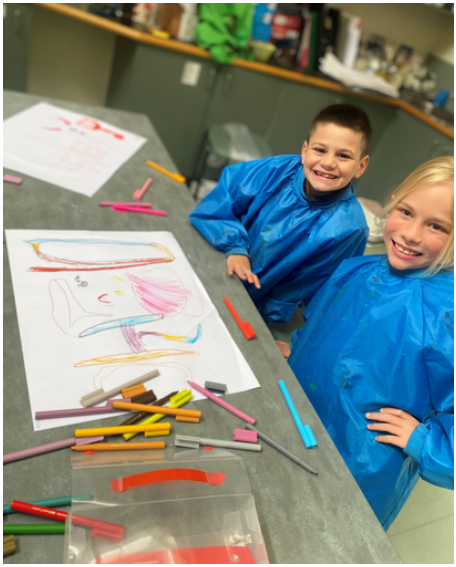
ENROLMENT

Enrolments are accepted from Foundation through to Year 12 across the year. Victorian College for the Deaf is not zoned, meaning our students attend from all across Melbourne. Contact the VCD office by phone (03 9510 1706) or email (victorian.ds@education.vic.gov.au) to discuss enrolment.

MATERIALS AND UNIFORM

Enrolled students are expected to wear a VCD school uniform and bring materials listed on the yearly booklist. Students in Grade 5 through to Year 12 are required to bring a laptop device to school for learning purposes.

The college have support available for families experiencing severe financial hardship. Please contact the VCD office or our Family Engagement Leader if you require assistance.



Victorian College for the Deaf
School Wide Positive Behaviours
Using school values of
Learning, Respect, Pride,
Responsibility & Resilience

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