



**LORETO**  
N E D L A N D S

# **Vision for Learning**

## **2020**



## Catholic Ethos

In Australia we are part of a rapidly changing culture which offers us both challenges and opportunities. Our founder Mary Ward strove to educate in and for society, not apart from it. Loreto education encourages schools to be open and yet discerning of the various movements of our time, 'referring all things to God' to sift what is truly good from what diminishes.

Loreto Nedlands is an Order Owned single-stream co-educational Catholic primary school catering for students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6. Our committed and enthusiastic staff work closely to provide a collaborative and supportive learning and teaching environment centered on the Gospel values. These values aim to liberate, empower and motivate students to use their individual gifts with confidence, creativity and generosity in loving and responsible service. Loreto Nedlands promotes excellence through the variety and depth of the education program offered.

Religious Education, prayer and liturgy are integral to the life of the school. The Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation are celebrated within the local parish of Holy Rosary Nedlands. The Loreto charism of Mary Ward is celebrated through focusing on the qualities of freedom, justice, sincerity, verity, and felicity. Service to others is promoted through raising awareness of contributing to the school community, justice issues and fund raising.

Loreto Nedlands embraces the diversity of every child within the community. Enrichment and remediation programs are catered for the individual learner. Students skills and passions that don't necessarily fall within the traditional curriculum are also recognized through public speaking, art, drama and environmental education initiatives. The EALD initiative caters for students in the early learning domain as well.

## Academics<sup>[RB(N-N1)]</sup>

Our academic program encourages inquiry-based learning that is rigorous and inclusive of all students.

Our students are encouraged to problem-solve, be critical and creative thinkers and to understand the connections between how their learning integrates with the real world. Loreto Nedlands teachers are responsive to the needs of each student and employ a wide range of effective strategies to optimise learning.

**The key learning areas are:**

### **Religious Education**

Our daily religion lessons follow the Religious Education guidelines set out through Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA). They are child centered, focus on our gospel values and have Jesus as the core. Our teachers model faith-based actions and values through their pastoral care and respect for others. Students in all classes participate in class masses, whole school masses and the sacramental programs.

### **English**

We aim to have a 90-minute uninterrupted block for Literacy Dedicated Time operating daily in Years 1-6. Rich literacy environments incorporating a range of modes of communication including music, movement, dance, storytelling, visual arts media and drama operate in Pre-K – PP. As research shows literacy teaching is most effective when there is a balanced focus on the development of children’s oral language, phonological awareness, phonic and orthographic knowledge, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension; our teachers intentionally design learning experiences to develop literacy skills and processes in rich, meaningful contexts.

### **Mathematics**

Mathematics lessons incorporate all four proficiency strands of the Western Australian curriculum: *Understanding, Fluency, Problem Solving* and *Reasoning*. Students are encouraged to explore and manipulate mathematics in the world around them with as much independence as possible. Loreto Nedlands aims to ensure our students are confident, creative users and communicators of mathematics, able to investigate, represent and interpret various mathematical situations.

### **Science**

Loreto Nedlands uses the “Primary Connections” program to plan the core Science learning experiences. Students are naturally curious and Primary Connections provides an inquiry-based approach that helps students develop deep learning and guides them to find scientific ways to answer their questions. The lessons include key science background information to help advance the teaching and learning offered to students. Students enjoy the hands-on investigation approach of this program and it can be used to integrate with other areas such as Literacy, HASS and Technology.

### **Humanities and Social Sciences**

In a world that is increasingly culturally diverse and dynamically interconnected, it is important that students come to understand their world, past and present, and develop a capacity to respond to challenges, now and in the future, in innovative, informed, personal and collective ways.

### **Health**

Our weekly health lessons follow several different programs that allow us to meet the needs of both the child and the curriculum. We utilise the Keeping Safe: child protection curriculum to cover a range of topics including bullying, making good choices for our safety and relationships. Our healthy eating component comes from Refresh Ed which helps students to learn where their food comes from and how we can make good food choices.

## Wellbeing

In our monthly wellbeing lessons students learn about a variety of subjects that are aimed at improving their sense of and knowledge of wellbeing. Subjects such as our brain, mindsets, character strengths and emotions are taught to all years at an age appropriate level. Teachers continue to support this learning through class lessons and teachable moments. Students have other opportunities throughout the year to demonstrate their growth through a variety of activities including Loreto day and the wellness 60 mornings.

The Brain Breaks initiative is based on early years behavioural research and is implemented throughout every class at Loreto Nedlands. Teachers are provided with a wide variety of activities to implement with the students, thus keeping the students energised and engaged throughout the busy school day.



## Physical Education

Children learn a variety of sports and skills over their physical education journey at Loreto. In junior classes there is a focus on fundamental movement skills which continues with the addition of game strategy and skill work in the senior classes. Sports are taught in a scaffolding manner where bits are added on each year to make it more challenging for the students. The students are given an opportunity to display some of these skills through a variety of carnivals, winter sports and inter-house events. The Edu Dance programme is implemented throughout all classes and provides the opportunities for all students to dance and embrace movement in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.



## Music

We believe that music compliments creative thinking and caters to every child as it connects with their social/emotional skills. It allows their body and mind to work together whilst teaching patience and self-discipline. Our programs include class lessons, junior musical, senior musical, liturgical singing, Year 4 Recorder and a whole school Christmas concert.

## Italian

At Loreto Nedlands the language programme aims to encourage the children to develop their communication skills and gain a deeper understanding of the Italian culture and language. Knowledge of the Italian language can open doors to a wide range of employment opportunities in the commercial, educational, scientific, chemical, automotive and hospitality fields. It also provides access to a rich culture known throughout the world for its contribution to art, architecture, music, ballet, literature, film, fashion and of course, food.

## Digital Technologies

Digital Technologies aims to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to ensure that, individually and collaboratively, students: design, create, manage and evaluate sustainable and innovative digital solutions to meet and redefine current and future needs.

## Additional Learning Areas:

### STEM

Advances in technology are changing the way students learn, connect and interact every day. As STEM is a starting point for children's understanding of their world, we believe that our students develop key skills including problem solving, creativity, teamwork, independent thinking, digital thinking and communication.

### Public Speaking Program

Our aim is to create confident speakers whilst giving them the opportunity to improve their communication and performance skills. Public speaking builds leadership skills and promotes critical thinking. Our programs include Loreto Speaker of the Year, Inter-school Debating and the Oracy Examination which all promote excellence and acknowledge student achievement.

### ICT

Loreto incorporates all forms of ICT into the different learning areas. Class teachers are aware that for ICT to be beneficial it needs to be purposeful and meaningful. Our early years screen time policy ensures that all students are exposed to a small amount of dedicated screen time. ICT includes iPads, Mac Books, Apple TV's, Robotics and SeeSaw.



### Early Childhood

At Loreto Nedlands we recognise that the skills and concepts formed in the early years help children make sense of, and apply, their knowledge and understanding. These are the foundations upon which the quality of later learning depends, and this phase of education is not only regarded as a preparation for later learning: it is a very important stage in its own right.

Children will develop skills, attitudes and understanding at their own level, through a broad and balanced curriculum. Learning is based on a child centred, play based approach building on their achievements in working towards the early learning goals.

The philosophy of Loreto Nedlands Early Childhood is based on developing the whole child in an environment that is exciting, challenging and emphasises learning through play. Play is a natural medium for children-allowing them to explore, discover, question, experience, create, hypothesise, construct, imagine, wonder, plan, organise, cooperate and solve problems.

Loreto Nedlands strives for a holistic approach to teaching to the whole child. We are committed to developing children who can think for themselves, create, imagine and navigate the challenges of the world with strength of character.

Nature play is a vital component of our everyday learning. We believe that nature play increases resilience and the ability to negotiate risks. It promotes collaboration between peers and encourages children to step outside of their comfort zone.

Play based education is valued at Loreto Nedlands. Teacher's remain the directors of a variety of learning experiences that derive from student interest and passions.



### **Pedagogical principles, methods and approaches: Flexible Learning Environments**

The design and implementation of flexible learning environments that create spaces where our teachers and students come together as co-learners. We recognise that 'our walls no longer mark the boundaries of our classroom' and consequently active exploration of ideas fosters creativity and encounter.

Student data collection is paramount in driving educational pedagogy. Data is collected and analysed over a range of time and through a variety of assessments, for example, Brighpath (writing), PAT-R and PAT Maths, running records (oral reading) and Lexile (reading and comprehension).

Inspired by John Hattie (2008) visible learning pedagogy, learning intentions, success criteria and student feedback has been implemented through teacher professional development and key teacher mentoring.

### **Aboriginal Education Plan**

Loreto Nedlands strives to educate staff and students in terms of cultural awareness and inclusivity. Through professional development and incursions we strive to create a more culturally competent staff. The Transforming Lives (CEWA strategic direction) programme will aid in this in coming years.

### **Differentiation, Extension and Support**

Loreto Nedlands challenges students to achieve academic excellence by making student academic achievement a priority and empowering all students to achieve at their highest level. We believe that learning environments should promote challenges, provide extension and acceleration experiences and support for all students.

Excellent teachers and resources, the assistance of enrichment teachers and teacher assistants support the focus on literacy and numeracy.

Education Programs include:

- Reading Recovery
- Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU)
- Dedicated Education Assistants in all junior year's classrooms
- Lexile reading program – supported by Teacher Librarian

### Well Being

The tradition across all Loreto schools in Australia has been to educate our young people to be "*seekers of truth and doers of justice.*" We continue this tradition by instilling in our girls and boys the skills they require to be active members of their communities. We require our students to be resilient, to have a strong sense of justice in standing up for what is right, to be confident speakers so they can use their voice for change, and to have the skills to be in productive and healthy relationships. To achieve this, we have seen the need to have targeted learning programs, commencing in Kindergarten, that progressively and developmentally provide and nourish the skills that our students require. The targeted learning sits alongside the culture of a positive mindset that our staff are developing across all interactions with students.

Here at Loreto Nedlands we have developed a whole school holistic approach to positive education called, "**Blossoming - A Complete Loreto Education.**" Essentially, we want all our students to *blossom*.

Mary Ward began the establishment of schools many centuries ago recognising that education plays a large part in development of people, not just as academics but as contributors to society. Loreto Nedlands Wellbeing Policy will aim to support and further develop this idea.

Wellbeing education at Loreto will combine traditional education structures and wellbeing education concepts with an aim to contribute to students flourishing. This will be taught in varying degrees from Pre-Kindergarten through to Year 6. Students will focus on character strengths, mindsets and mindfulness which will filter down to the development of grit, resilience, hope and gratitude.

Mother Gonzaga Barry, foundress of Loreto in Australia, viewed education as achievement of personal maturity, individual character formation, together with the ability to contribute responsibly to family, the church and society. Education should aim to develop religious, intellectual, physical, artistic and affective aspects of the student. Our program will strongly support her ideas and continue what was begun over a century ago.



The program supports **Mary Ward Schools Compass: Rooted, Responsive and Relevant** with links made to all key concepts.

The main focus areas will drive our behaviour management - shifting conversations with students from “What did you do wrong?” to “What can you do better?”.

### Pastoral Care

Our goals and aims of Pastoral Care at Loreto Nedlands are to:

- Provide an environment, a curriculum and a set of practices based on the Gospels.
- Enable students to attain the beliefs, values, attitudes, knowledge, skills and practices which will enable them to achieve Christ’s vision of the human person.
- Enhance the students’ integrated development as Christian men and women as responsible, inner-directed individuals of Christian virtue, capable of free choice and of making value-judgements enlightened by a formed Christian conscience.
- Pastoral Care takes conscience of spiritual, emotional, intellectual, physical and social aspects of the human person.
- Pastoral Care influences the school’s structures and programs of personal development and development to enable each person to reach their full potential.
- Pastoral care fosters the creation of an atmosphere of trust where the dignity and worth of each person is continually affirmed.
- Pastoral Care is the responsibility of all members of the school community and should permeate all relationships within the community.
- Pastoral Care provides the dynamic underpinning for curriculum policy and decision making.
- Pastoral care influences the school’s structures and programs of personal development and leadership training, valuing the gifts of each one and facilitating his/her enhancement.
- Pastoral Care respects the privacy of each individual.

### Extracurricular

A wide variety of growth opportunities are provided to all Loreto Nedlands students. From working in the vegetable/fruit gardens and worm farms that integrates with Environmental Education, to dance lessons and Mini Vinnies groups. The children are given the opportunity to find their passions and to develop them with their friends and peers.

Extra-curricular activities offered include:

- Tournament of the Minds
- Maths Olympiad
- Robocup
- Chess Club
- Environment Club
- Mini Vinnies
- Book Club
- Academic All Stars



Music is integral to all aspects of celebration throughout the school. Extra-curricular activities include:

- Junior and Senior Choir
- Orchestra
- Ensembles
- Individual tuition
- Musicals
- CPAF

