

LOWER SECONDARY 2019

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

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SIDE
SCHOOL OF ISOLATED &
DISTANCE EDUCATION



Lower Secondary Curriculum

Subjects studied by SIDE students are in line with Western Australian Curriculum. The Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline sets out the knowledge, understandings, skills and attitudes that all Western Australian students from Kindergarten to Year 10 are expected to acquire.

Curriculum Structure:

SIDE Lower Secondary Curriculum: Time Allocation

Hours per week over 40 weeks per school year			
Learning Area (hours per week)	Year 7/8	Year 9	Year 10
English	4	4	4
Humanities and Social Sciences	4	4	4
Mathematics	4	4	4
Science	4	4	4
Health	2	2	2
Languages *	2	0-2*	0-2*
The Arts *	2	0-4*	0-2*
Technologies*	2	0-4*	0-2*
Careers **	n/a	n/a	0-2 (Semester length)
Specialised course/program***	n/a	n/a	0-6
Hours per week	24	24	24
Student programs must contain 24 hours.			

* These Learning Areas are not mandated after Year 8.

** Year 10 students are expected to participate in a semester length Careers program.

*** Year 10 students have the opportunity to specialise by selecting subjects or programs that support their individual pathway goals. For example, a student may choose a VET certificate, an Endorsed program such as Workplace Learning or Chevron (see below); or an ATAR course (subject to approval by the Deputy Principal - Students). Decisions are made after counselling with stakeholders. Such Senior Secondary programs are allocated 4 hours per week.

Note: ASDAN modules are available for Learning Support students.

Additional courses on offer in Year 10 may include:

- VET certificates
- Powering Careers in Energy – Chevron
- Workplace Learning
- Community Arts Performance
- Elite Sports Performance
- Off-campus Enrichment Program.
- Community Service
- Recreational Pursuits

Student Coordinators work in partnership with students and their parents/ guardians to establish appropriate student programs.

Reporting:

Grades (A-E) will be based on demonstrated achievement relative to expected learning as described by the achievement standards for each learning area/subject. Lower Secondary SIDE school reports also include a teacher assessment of a student's attitude, behaviour and effort, an overall teacher comment and any additional information the school considers relevant.

In addition to formal end-of-semester reports, SIDE teachers report informally in a variety of ways, including but not limited to; interim reporting, parent-teacher discussions, email or phone conversations.

NAPLAN:

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 7 and 9. NAPLAN is conducted in May. Students in the metropolitan area will sit the tests at SIDE. All other students will require supervisors to administer the tests.

NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas of:

- reading
- writing
- language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- numeracy.

NAPLAN tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum. These tests are externally assessed and results are posted to both the school and the student's home, usually in August.

OLNA:

In order to demonstrate the Literacy and Numeracy standard required to gain the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) by the end of Year 12, students either:

1. prequalify by achieving Band 8 or higher in NAPLAN or
2. sit the Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA).

The OLNA is compulsory for those students who have not prequalified in one or more of the components through Year 9 NAPLAN. It is compulsory for Year 10 students to sit OLNA if they have not prequalified. Students will have up to six opportunities (two per year) over Years 10, 11 and 12 to demonstrate the literacy and numeracy minimum standard. OLNA testing takes place in March and September each year.

Students in the metropolitan area will sit the tests at SIDE. All other students will require an appropriate supervisor to administer the tests.

There are three assessment components:

- One 50-minute, 45-item multiple-choice of Reading
- One 50-minute, 45-item multiple-choice of Numeracy, and
- One 50-minute, extended response in Writing of between 300 and 600 words.

Students are only required to sit the components in which they have not prequalified.

It is very important to note that Supervisors of the OLNA tests are NOT to be related to the student or a close family friend.

NAPLAN AND OLNA RESULTS IMPACT ON A STUDENT'S SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION PATHWAY CHOICES.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT STUDENTS SIT THESE TESTS AT THE ALLOCATED TIMES.

General Information

Do students have different teachers for their subjects?

Yes. All students in Lower Secondary have access to specialist teachers in all subject areas. They will also have access to a more diverse range of subjects as a secondary student, such as Digital Technology, Home Economics and Media Arts.

Can students/parents visit the school to see what things are like?

Yes. Students/parents are encouraged to visit the SIDE Leederville site. Please contact SIDE to make an appointment with the relevant Student Coordinator, who will give an orientation of SIDE's facilities and outline the expectations of SIDE students.

How do students access their learning through SIDE?

Webex is an online classroom that allows teaching to happen in real time. The SIDE teacher is the host and the student is the participant. Lessons are scheduled by teachers and students are invited to attend by email. Students are expected to attend at the allocated day/time. Webex sessions are recorded and students are expected to watch the playback if they miss a lesson.

Moodle is a secure, learning management system consisting of individual online 'classrooms'. Course work is stored in Moodle and it is accessible by students 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Support is available with detailed guides and help sheets on the SIDE website.

[E-Learning > Guides and Help Sheets](#)

Students can also email/ phone teachers for assistance.

Is there homework?

Yes. The student needs to construct a timetable which incorporates the 24 hours per week expected to cover the eight Learning Areas. A student's homework will consist of any of the assigned work not finished during these set hours. For example, he/she may have to read a novel or complete an assessment item. It is a good idea to create a timetable that builds in homework time to develop your student's time management skills.

If parents have limited experience with the tools and knowledge required to help students with online learning, will there be the opportunity to improve parent skills so they can offer support?

Yes. SIDE has a team of teachers and technicians who are available to support parents, on request, with setting up and supporting students to successfully use online learning tools. There is a range of help sheets on the SIDE website.

What is the role of the SIDE parent/supervisor?

Working through SIDE involves a partnership between the parents, student and school. The supervisor is a support person who assists the student to meet the requirements of the subject areas.

Who is the best person at SIDE to contact if parents have concerns or just want to find out how their child is progressing?

Students/parents will have contact details for the student's respective teachers and can contact them directly, either by email or by phone. Also, every student at SIDE has a Student Coordinator. In addition to enrolling the student, their responsibilities include monitoring the student's academic progress and providing a contact point for parents.

What if a student does not seem to be coping with school?

When students log in to Moodle they will initially have access to either:

- SIDE Launchpad for Lower Secondary
- SIDE Essentials for Senior Secondary

These courses contain activities and tips which will help the student get organised, construct a timetable and engage in study skills, etc.

Parents should discuss any concerns with the respective Student Coordinator or one of our School Psychologists (contact details are available on the SIDE website).

Will there be a special transition process for students with special needs?

Yes. The Student Services team and school psychologists liaise closely with schools/agencies/families to provide a smooth transition in these circumstances. If parents are at all concerned about this process, they are encouraged to request an appointment so the needs of their child can be adequately met.

What textbooks and materials need to be purchased?

SIDE teachers have an online Moodle subject classroom, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In this space, students access much of the learning materials they require and submit their work. Occasionally, subjects will have print materials to support the Moodle classroom which will be sent to the student. As SIDE is an online school, students will need to have access to a computer with reliable internet connection and a headset with microphone. For additional required materials, please refer to the SIDE website.

[Admissions > Costs > Booklist - Personal Items and Resource List](#)

