

# LOWER SECONDARY 2020

## CURRICULUM INFORMATION

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[www.side.wa.edu.au](http://www.side.wa.edu.au)



## 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.

### 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) are 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 Year 9 NAPLAN or
2. pass 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. 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?

Yes. Students/parents are encouraged to visit the SIDE Leederville site. Please contact SIDE to make an appointment with the relevant Student Coordinator.

### How do students access their learning through SIDE?

**Webex** is an online classroom where teaching and learning occurs in real time. Lessons are scheduled by teachers. Students are expected to attend at the allocated day/time or view the recording of the lesson.

Every SIDE course has a 'web space' in **Moodle** where students access lesson materials and activities, upload work and interact with their teacher and other students. Moodle has secure logins, and is accessible 24/7.

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. It is a good idea to create a timetable that builds in homework time to develop your child's time management skills.

### Is there support for parents to help their children with online learning?

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.

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

### 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.

### How can I access my child's reports?

Parents can view their child's report and other assessment information in **Parent Connect**. All parents have a P number and password. Forgotten details can be retrieved.

### 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. Every secondary student at SIDE has a Student Coordinator who enrolls students, monitors their academic progress and provides a contact point for parents.

#### [About > Contacts > Staff Contacts > Student Services and Careers](#)

### 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.

#### [About > Contacts > Staff Contacts > Student Services and Careers](#)

### 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?

Students access most of the learning materials they require and submit their work in Moodle. 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.

#### [7-12 Enrolment > Costs > Booklist](#)

## Further Information

Read A Guide to SIDE and Fast Track to SIDE on the SIDE website  
[side.wa.edu.au](http://side.wa.edu.au) or [secenrol@side.wa.edu.au](mailto:secenrol@side.wa.edu.au) or (08) 9311 1400