

Every student deserves the best education there is. Croydon Community School & OPTIONS is based on powerful principles – one student at a time and real world learning.

We base our curriculum on the premise that each student has unique interests, needs and abilities that our education program must take into account.

The key to achievement lies in fostering students' individual interests, encouraging their active participation in the learning process and developing the ability to apply knowledge and skills to real life experiences and challenges.

Croydon Community School is inspiring and, at the same time, practical: concepts are named, processes are articulated and outcomes measured. We support students, families and mentors as they develop deep learning.

CROYDON COMMUNITY SCHOOL & OPTIONS IS UNDERPINNED BY 12 DESIGN PRINCIPLES:

1. Academic rigour: Head, heart and hand

Croydon Community School & OPTIONS has a strong intellectual purpose for each and every student. Students are continually challenged to deepen their learning and improve their performance across five learning goals: quantitative reasoning, empirical reasoning, social reasoning, communication skills and personal qualities. A high standard of academic work is expected of all students.

2. Leaving to learn: Learning through internships

Students aim to build their learning around the real world. Students work up to two days a week in an interest-based internship with a mentor from the community on an intellectually rigorous real-world project that is connected to their learning goals and their individual learning plan

3. Personalisation: One student at a time

With the help of the advisory teacher and parents, each student develops a learning plan that explores their interests and passions, and identifies personal learning goals, authentic project work and wider curriculum requirements. This plan is reviewed and updated regularly

4. Authentic assessment

Each term the students exhibit their portfolios of work to a panel made up of the advisory teacher, family, peers, the mentor, and others from the community. They provide evidence of progress against their learning goals and they reflect on the process of their learning.

5. Collaboration for learning

Students work in one-on-one or small group learning environments around their interests both inside and outside the school. Through internships, the community plays an integral role in the education of the students.

6. Learning in Advisory

Students are in an advisory group of no more than 17 students and an advisory teacher and advisory education support person. They stay in the same advisory for much of their secondary education. The advisory teacher manages each student's learning plan and ensures that all learning goals and the National Curriculum are covered.

7. Trust, respect and care

One of the striking things about Croydon Community School & OPTIONS is the ease with which students interact with adults in both the school and the wider community. A culture of trust, respect and care is shared between students and adults, as well as among students themselves.

8. Everyone's a leader

At Croydon Community School & OPTIONS, leadership is shared between the principal, staff, students, family, and community partners. Opportunities for leadership are created for everyone.

9. Families are enrolled too

Croydon Community School & OPTIONS aims for real family engagement. Parents or carers are regarded as essential members of the learning team, beginning with the application and enrolment process and progressing through to learning plan development, exhibitions and graduation.

10. Creating futures

All students are expected to graduate from school to further learning. They are prepared for, and connected to, opportunities for learning at university and/or other further education.

11. Teachers and leaders are learners too

New ideas constantly emerge as part of the learning cycle process. Teachers and leaders regularly attend to new ideas and learn new ways of working. They develop reflective practice and find ways of sharing this learning with others.

12. Diverse and enduring partnerships

Croydon Community School & OPTIONS has a strong focus on building and creating external partnerships. These include partnerships with: the family, mentors, local councils, businesses, universities, TAFE colleges and other training providers. These partnerships give students the opportunities to pursue their learning and achieve their goals.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy, last ratified in June 2014 and first developed in this format in May 2019, was endorsed/approved by School Council on 25th June, 2019 and will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change (no specific DET reference).