

BALLARAT SPECIALIST SCHOOL

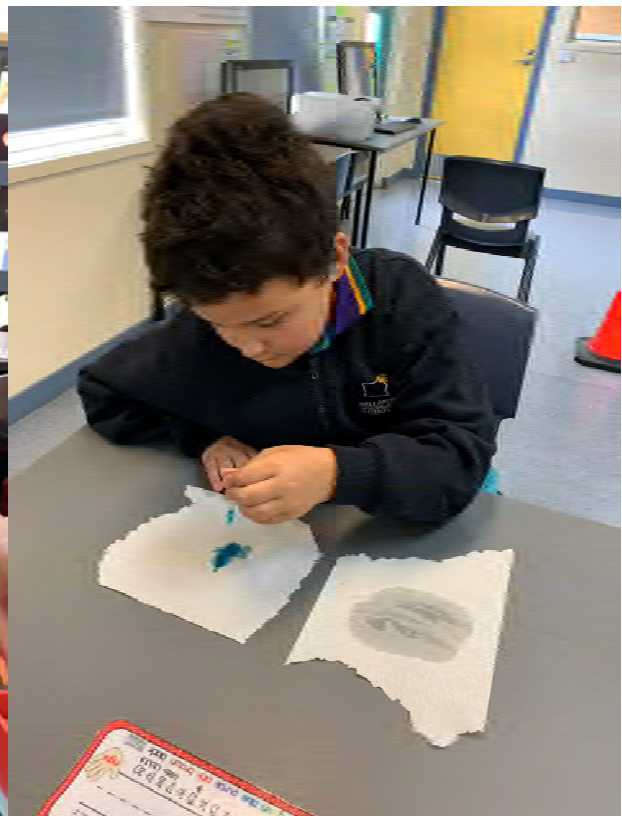
# JUNIOR SCHOOL HANDBOOK 2021



BALLARAT  
SPECIALIST  
SCHOOL

# Welcome

The Junior School caters for students ranging from Years 2 to 6 where students are grouped according to their year level. Together, the Early Years (Kindergarten to Year 1) and the Junior School are collectively known as the Primary School. In the classroom, students are exposed to a variety of teaching styles to cater to their individual learning needs. These include the use of concrete materials, small group work, students working 1:1 with staff, engaging in team based activities and working independently.



The Junior School continually works towards students building on everyday life skills, forming friendships amongst peers and developing independence. Learning programs are differentiated to allow all students to learn at their own pace and at their zone of proximal development.

In the Junior School, the community is committed to creating an inclusive, supportive and engaging learning environment for all students. We implement structures that assist students to build independence, whilst developing important life skills.



Students engage in the Respectful Relationships curriculum to promote respect and positive attitudes and behaviours. The students are taught strategies to build healthy relationships, resilience and confidence. These can then be transferred between the classroom, specialist lessons and into everyday life.



As a community, our aim is to have all students learning in a safe and supportive environment.

# Curriculum



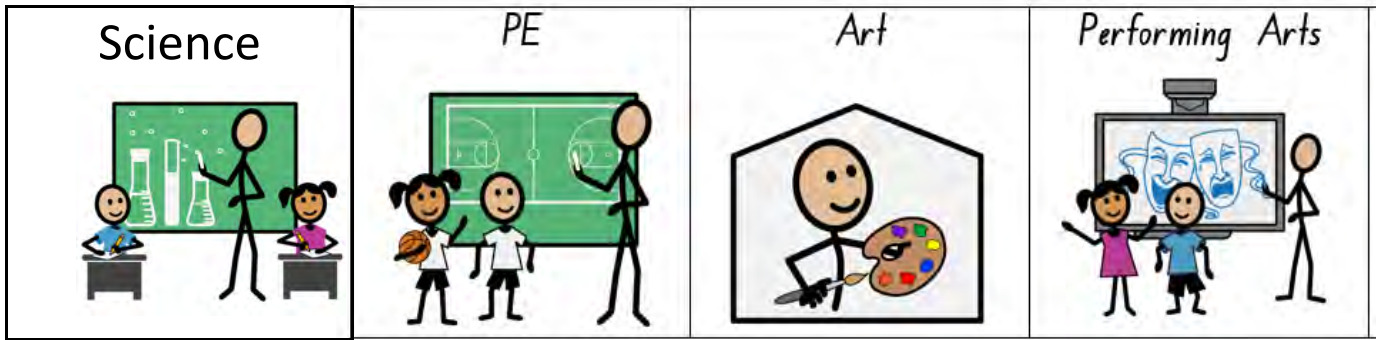
Teaching and learning in the Junior School has a strong focus on improving student outcomes in English and Mathematics based on the Victorian Curriculum. The school's Curriculum Maps determine the teaching foci for each term.

In each section of the Junior School, the student's learning stage is identified, and as the students move through the school, there is a focus for them to take increasing responsibility for their learning. In the Junior School, instruction is guided primarily by the teacher and the students are provided with opportunities to build upon their learning.

Typically the Junior School curriculum focuses on the students and how they 'learn to learn'. Through Integrated Studies and Specialist Programs, they are encouraged to further develop skills, knowledge and strategies to enable them to develop their own learning styles.



## Specialist Subjects



Junior School students participate in weekly sessions of Art, Performing Arts, Science and Physical Education. Students also have the opportunity to participate in choir, instrumental music and various therapy programs according to their individual needs. These include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy or hydrotherapy sessions in the pool.

## Zones of Regulation

The 'Zones of Regulation' allows students to identify and communicate how they are feeling in a positive way. The Zones approach uses four coloured zones to help students identify how they are feeling in that moment and provides a guide to support regulation.

### The **ZONES** of Regulation®

<b>BLUE ZONE</b> Sad Sick Tired Bored Moving Slowly	<b>GREEN ZONE</b> Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	<b>YELLOW ZONE</b> Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	<b>RED ZONE</b> Mad/Angry Terrified Yelling/Hitting Elated Out of Control

## High Support Classes

To best support students with complex health, engagement, learning and safety needs, Ballarat Specialist School has created a number of Junior School High Support classes. The High Support classes follow the curriculum teaching and learning map with a focus on “Becoming a Learner.” The teaching and learning programs in High Support focus on the pre-Foundational Victorian Curriculum levels A-C.



## Flexible Learning Options

FLO is a highly individualised learning program with a strong focus on providing support for a young person’s engagement and wellbeing. Students engaging in FLO will have modified curriculum expectations and specific, individualised goals. FLO programs are coordinated by our Wellbeing and Engagement team and can take many forms. These include individualised programs within a classroom, flexible timetable options and small group sessions.

## Camps, Excursions and Special Events

Students in the Junior School have the opportunity to attend camps, excursions and school based special events. These are an important part of the curriculum as they promote personal growth. Camps and excursions align with the curriculum to provide opportunities for a range of experiences.



Classrooms also have a Community Access program where students go into the community to experience and participate in activities. These include travel on the public bus, shopping in the supermarket and attending fun activities such as ten pin bowling or going to the movies. These experiences align with the curriculum and provide teaching opportunities that focus on essential life skills such as money handling, transportation and personal safety while in the community.

# Seesaw



The Seesaw parent app (free) is how we share your child's learning at Ballarat Specialist School. Each child gets their own digital journal for teachers to add photos, videos, drawings or notes. You will receive notifications about your child's new journal posts. These might include photos and videos or messages from your classroom teacher that are intended for all families.

Journals are only accessible by your child, their teachers and yourself.

They are not public and information is never shared with third parties.

## How do I get Seesaw?

The **Seesaw Parent app** is **free** to download.

**Step 1:** Seesaw can be downloaded on your phone, iPad/tablet and laptop from the Apple App store, any android app store and Google Play store.

**Step 2:** Once the Seesaw Parent app is downloaded on your device, you will need to add your email address to set up your account.

**Step 3:** Your child's classroom teacher may give you a QR code to scan which will add you into your child's journal. If you have supplied your email address to the school, you may be added via email.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher for further information.



# School Wide PBIS and Our School Values

Our school values are:

- *Responsibility*
- *Respect*
- *Safety*



We explicitly teach these values and expectations in our classrooms and encourage their practice around the school, in the community and online.

Expected behaviours are taught as part of the curriculum in the same way we teach English and Mathematics.

These behaviours are reinforced with tickets. They are given to students for demonstrating the values as a part of the Positive Behaviour and Support Program.

The tickets are then added to the weekly classroom and school wide raffle draws that enable the students to earn 'money' to spend in the "Vintage Soul" OpShop.



## Special Treats Cafe

Our onsite café allows Year 6 students the opportunity to experience what it is like to work in a café. Students learn work ready skills that will help prepare them for future work. These opportunities continue in Years 7-9 and in the VET programs at the FARM in the Senior Years. Special Treats Café is open to the public. Students can purchase lunch orders via the school app.



The school's newest program, 'Vintage Soul' is a school based Op-Shop! It is located at the Gillies Street Campus next to the main bus port in the school carpark. The purpose of the Op-Shop is to offer students opportunities to learn work related skills in a retail environment.

## Vintage Soul Op Shop



Vintage Soul is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday between 9.30 - 2pm.

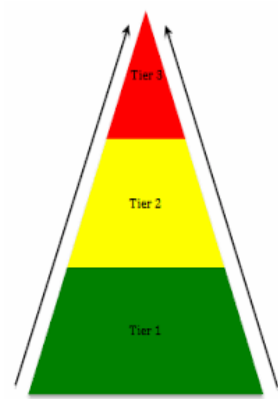
# Integrated Services Team

The Integrated Services team offers a multi-disciplinary and child-centred approach. The **Allied Health Team** (speech pathologists, occupational therapists, music therapist, physiotherapist, nurse and allied health assistants) and **Wellbeing & Engagement Team** (psychologist, engagement learning specialist, student welfare officers, behavioural occupational therapist, wellbeing & engagement assistant) **collaborate with staff** to offer integrated and coordinated supports based on student's individual needs.

**Referrals** for integrated services support can be made by teachers, parents and carers or students. Parents and carers can **contact their child's teacher** or the IST administration officer (Ph. 5334 1302). Students can self-refer by contacting the Wellbeing & Engagement team or Allied Health Team.

**A three-tiered response-to-intervention model** supports all students.

Tier 3	Individualised, <b>intensive supports</b> (e.g. physiotherapy hydro sessions, counselling sessions, specialised assessments, mealtime plans)
Tier 2	Targeted, <b>supplemented supports</b> through group programming or adapted timetabling (e.g. sensory gym, Drumbeat, Seasons for Growth, Pride group)
Tier 1	Whole <b>school programming</b> supports, integrated into the curriculum and classroom (e.g. PBIS, Zones of Regulation, use of visuals)



The Integrated Services Team also coordinates all **NDIS** related queries. All requests made by external therapists or agencies are processed by the Integrated Services Team.

Please contact the IST Administration Officer about any NDIS related questions.

