

Essendon Keilor College High Achievers Program Policy

1. Rationale

Our High Achievers Program (HAP) has been developed to bring together like-minded, high-achieving students, giving them a sense of belonging and extending them to fulfil their potential. Through the combination of a specially designed curriculum, support from our experienced teachers and a culture of high expectations, students are nurtured, challenged and motivated towards achieving their highest level of academic excellence. Our mission here at Essendon Keilor College is to promote peak performance by delivering an outstanding education that is personalised and caters for varied interests, needs and aspirations.

2. Purpose

Our mission here at Essendon Keilor College is to promote peak performance by delivering an outstanding education that is personalised and caters for varied interests, needs and aspirations. At Essendon Keilor College, students undertaking this program will be accelerated in their subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Health and Physical Education, STEM, Horticulture, Art and Performance.

We provide a High Achievers Program for students who have exceptional academic ability. We will provide opportunities for students to accelerate through secondary school and to undertake challenging learning experiences, which are tailored to deliver outstanding academic achievement.

Our curriculum is compacted so the mainstream Year 7 – 10 program is covered in a 3-year period via a comprehensive and specific High Achievers Program. Enrichment is provided by broadening content, understanding, experience and skills to a level appropriate to the students' zone of proximal development. Extension leads to in depth study and the integration and application of knowledge at a higher level. HAP students begin to undertake VCE units at Year 10 in order to maximise flexibility, depth and breadth in their VCE program. Exemplary students may have an opportunity to complete a first year university subject in Year 12.

3. Implementation

Students selected into HAP are offered enrolment positions at the school in line with DET's enrolment policy. Once enrolled, students are selected into the HAP using Edutest results, prior reports, teacher referrals and applications.

The HAP Coordinator will:

- Manage and coordinate the HAP from Year 6 to Year 9
- Liaise with curriculum leaders to ensure a personalised accelerated learning program is delivered for HAP students.
- Coordinate the testing and interview process for HAP.
- Manage and review the student information and selection process across Years 7-9.
- Collect and provide data analysis of outcomes for the HAP Program.
- Facilitate professional development for teachers of HAP students with the Curriculum Leading Teacher.

Students in HAP will:

- Take responsibility for their own learning by actively engaging in all aspects of HAP.
- Develop good learning and study habits with the support of teachers and family.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that meets the school's expectations.

- Remain up to date with all classwork and be prepared to complete all learning tasks per the school's assessment schedule.
- Participate in extra-curricular activities
- Participate in academic interschool competitions (Mathematics, English and Science)
- Maintain suitable results across all subjects. This will be based on an individual basis and will be at the discretion of HAP Coordinator and Principal Team.
- Students will be expected to demonstrate genuine effort in all aspects of their schooling.

Teachers in HAP will:

- Set learning tasks and curriculum that is purposeful and meaningful, as well as reinforce students' learning and growth.
- Differentiate learning where appropriate to support all students at the point of readiness to learn. This includes stretching and extending.
- Provide timely and effective feedback to students, where and when appropriate.
- Take into consideration the workload of students so that they can manage their workload effectively, by having discussions with the students and other teachers.

Families in HAP will:

- Encourage students to establish good study patterns through a study routine/planner.
- Support the study practices of HAP students, without completing work for them, and acknowledge success as they complete it.
- Provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning through discussing their school work or ideas/topics being taught in class.

4. Specific procedures

Learning within the HAP is as demanding as it is rewarding. Therefore, HAP students must be motivated to learn, be well organised and able to make a genuine commitment to the program. Students eligible for entry into HAP at all year levels are those who achieve high academic results, or are achieving beyond the expected level

All students are expected to be involved in at least one extracurricular activity - Production, leadership, sports and/or music, to add a layer of global citizenship and community involvement to their learning experience.

All students successfully accepted into the program for 2023 will receive a laptop free of charge.

Students will also have the opportunity to apply for an EKC scholarship at each campus to cover the cost of uniforms and resources.

The program aims to strive for student excellence by:

- creating a more challenging learning environment for highly talented and motivated student
- providing the opportunity to work independently and cooperatively with other students of similar abilities and interests
- providing students who are academically inclined and motivated an opportunity to excel in their studies
- Developing strong and proficient skills in using ICT
- Developing sound personal and interpersonal learning to learn strategies
- Preparing students for a broader, more intensive VCE studies and/or University Extension units in their senior

years.

How is the Program Structured?

Year 7 and 8

Students undertake an accelerated learning program in Math's, Science and Humanities

Students undertake an enhanced learning program in English and Language.

Students undertake the mainstream Year 7 and 8 curriculum program in the Arts, Technology and PE.

Year 9

Students undertake an accelerated learning program in Math's, Science and Humanities.

Students undertake an enhanced learning program in English.

Students undertake the mainstream Year 9 Elective Program.

Year 10

Students may commence VCE units of study.

Students will undertake an enhanced learning program in English and Math's.

Students will participate in the mainstream Year 10 Elective Program.

When a student reaches Year 10 and beyond, there are multiple pathways for the student to meet their individual learning needs. The extent of acceleration, and the subject areas accelerated are tailored to the performance and tertiary pathway of each student and determined through extensive course direction with the Senior Years Team.

All HAP students are expected to maintain a high standard of work and effort. Therefore, each student's placement in HAP is privileged, and is not guaranteed from year to year. If at risk, the HAP Coordinator will discuss with all relevant parties and implement a range of support strategies in line with the school's appropriate policies.

5. Definitions & references

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6. Consultative process

This is a school-based policy and therefore consultation was undertaken with HAP teachers, students and parents. This policy was tabled at the Principal Team meeting during term three for discussion and approval.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 2022
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2024