HAMPDEN SPECIALIST SCHOOL

A guide for families of prospective students

About us

Hampden Specialist School is a specialist school setting operating on a unique **baseroom model**. The school has two campuses and 3 distinct areas which are **located on the grounds of a host school**. These include;

Early Years (Foundation – Year 4) on the grounds the **Terang College** P-4 campus and;

Middle Years (Year 5 – 9) and **Later Years (Year 10 – 12)** both on the grounds of **Cobden Technical School**.

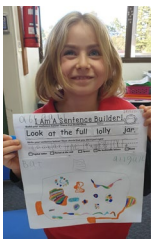
The **baseroom program** is a reciprocal relationship between Hampden and the host schools in which resources, opportunities and expertise can be shared for the benefit of all staff and students.

Depending on the individual this can include;

- Access to classes of strength or interest at the host school (including trade subjects at Secondary Level)
- Shared recess times and supervised access to the host school yard to broaden social connections and experiences
- Involvement in community and extra-curricular experiences with the host school and local network of schools
- Shared use of school grounds, facilities and equipment to enhance access to effective learning opportunities for all students

The ethos of the baseroom program is reflected in the schools motto 'The best of both worlds' whereby students all have the opportunity to enhance their academic and social learning through this partnership between schools.

What do we do?



There is often a misunderstanding that specialist settings are care services for students with disabilities rather than educational settings. First and foremost we are a School with all of the same features you would experience in any other school setting. If you were to walk through the school you would see students reading, writing, investigating math concepts, doing science experiments, creating artworks and doing all of the things you would see in a mainstream classroom. Classes are smaller in size and learning adapted to suit individual needs, however it is our firm belief that all students have the right and capacity to learn the academic, personal, social and life skills needed to become functional and successful members of Australian society.

Curriculum

Our focus at Hampden is to provide students with the same learning opportunities as their mainstream peers, whilst catering to each student's individual strengths, interests and capabilities. As a government school, we follow the **Victorian Curriculum** and engage students in a variety of programs to develop their **Literacy, Numeracy, cross-curricula** and **Personal and Social skills**.

ILPs (Individualised Learning Plans)

An ILP (Individualised Learning Plan) is developed for each student in Term 1 and Term 3. This is a set of learning goals or targets based on each student's point of need and linked to the Victorian Curriculum level they are working at for each subject area. These goals are identified through varied methods of assessment and designed to be SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timed) in order to target the specific needs of each individual to progress in their learning. These goals are also reported on in Term 2 and 4 to demonstrate each students learning progress for the semester.

Our Staff

Our staff are welcoming and have a shared belief that all students deserve an opportunity to learn in a safe, supportive learning environment. Staff includes our Principal, Leading Teachers in each area, Classroom Teachers, (ESS) Education Support Staff, and a Specialist Art Teacher.

Teaching staff develop positive relationships with students and families in order to ensure a positive learning experience that achieves the best possible outcomes for each individual student. Teachers have extensive training and knowledge in the education and special needs learning fields. All teaching staff hold a Bachelor degree in Education with many holding a Master's degree or undertaking further study to achieve this and improve their professional knowledge and practice. On top of this all staff regularly engage in professional development to stay up to date with best teaching and learning practices informed by current educational research.

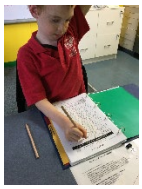
ESS staff are also very knowledgeable in their roles and develop positive relationships with students in order to support them to achieve to their highest potential. ESS staff follow teacher directed learning programs and work flexibly between classrooms in order to support the learning programs of all students in the school. They also regularly engage in professional development to stay up to date with current educational research in order to understand how they can best support the learning program.

Additionally to our onsite staff Hampden Specialist School works with a variety of **specialists** that benefit the positive development and individual needs of each student. This includes **Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Psychologists** and a range of other services, both through the school and NDIS finding initiative. Teaching staff collaborate with these professionals in order to incorporate strategies into the learning program that will further benefit students and enhance their development in all areas.

Sounds-write

An evidence-based linguistic program widely used throughout the U.K. and Australia providing successful outcomes for students learning to read and spell. It has been adopted by many schools across Victoria over the past few years and focuses on direct and regular practice of phonic knowledge and applying it to reading and writing. All teaching staff have been trained in sounds-write instruction which is taught daily during the Literacy block.

QuickSmart



QuickSmart is an intervention program designed for students who experience persistent difficulties in numeracy. The program provides a framework with short and targeted lesson components for educators to work through with their students. The aim of QuickSmart is to enable students to become automatic (quick) in their basic skills in order to move onto more complex problem-solving skills (smart). QuickSmart is offered to selected students from year 4 -10.

Developmental Curriculum and Inquiry Learning

Developmental Curriculum is a play and project-based holistic pedagogy based on the 'Walker Learning approach'. It is an internationally acclaimed intentional teaching and learning approach for children in their early childhood and primary years. Our school has been trained in the 'Walker Learning approach' which has been implemented in schools for over 20 years across Australia, New Zealand and Asia. This is a total approach teaching and learning tool that provides a unique balance between children being active participants in their learning and explicit instruction. Students explore, experience and investigate through a range of play focused activities. These act as a vehicle for learning from a range of curriculum areas to be both student driven and teacher targeted. This method of investigation extends into more formal project based investigations from year 3 onwards in Inquiry Learning.

Extra-Curricular Programs

Cooking

Every Wednesday students are involved in the cooking program. In these sessions students are exposed to a variety of skills that enrich their learning across a number of areas. This includes literacy (through learning to read and follow a recipe) mathematics (through measuring and counting), science (by experiencing food based reactions), fine and gross motor skills (through cutting, grating, peeling and mixing) as well as learning and practicing the life skill of planning and preparing a meal for themselves and others.

Swimming, Sport and Social Skills Programs

Each Friday students travel to Warrnambool to engage in physical education experiences and practice acceptable etiquette when eating out at a restaurant. As well as being a great way to stay fit swimming is an essential safety skill for all Australians and a big focus of our program running in Term 1 and 2 each year. During Term 3 and 4 students are exposed to a range of motor skill practice through a variety of sports including (but not limited to) Tennis, Soccer, Gymnastics and Karate. This program pairs with the social learning aspect of our curriculum, where students work on sitting and staying at the table, using cutlery, ordering, using their manners and engaging in appropriate dinner table conversations with others. The program is very successful in supporting students to develop the skills required to attend social outings with their families which may in the past have been an unachievable task.

RDA (Riding for the Disabled Australia)

Riding for the Disabled Association Australia (RDAA) is a voluntary, non-profit organisation which provides opportunities for anyone with a disability to enjoy safe, healthy stimulating, therapeutic, horse-related activities in Australia. RDA enables people with a range of disabilities to experience enjoyment, challenge and a sense of achievement through participation in equestrian activities to improve their quality of life, attain personal goals and develop life skills. The Program is school funded and offered to all Early Years students in Terms 1 and 2 each year.

Sailability (Sailing Program)

Sailability is a school funded program that offers students the chance to learn to sail in a controlled and flexible setting for all abilities. Sailability organisations are “not for profit”, volunteer-based, and through the activity of Sailing enriches the lives of people of all abilities – the elderly, the financially and socially disadvantaged as well as people with physical challenges. The program is run in collaboration with other Special Schools in our Network and available to all Year 5 -12 students at scheduled times during the school year.

Hands on Learning

Hands On Learning (HoL) is an innovative education program that caters to the different ways young people learn. Two artisan-teachers work collaboratively with small groups of cross-age students on authentic building projects that provide a platform for students to engage, grow confidence and achieve success at school. HoL fosters strong, long term relationships that help young people develop the skills and abilities they need to succeed in work and life like collaboration, problem solving, communication, resilience and empathy. HoL has been running successfully at Hampden for the past 2 years and is offered to selected students each term from years 5 – 12.

Camps and Excursions

Camps are an enriching experience for students that help them to build resilience, learn new things and have fun in the process. Camps run from Foundation through to Year 12 for all students. We also access a variety of excursions to engage students in a range of learning experiences beyond the classroom.

Library

Students at the Early Years campus visit the Library regularly on a Wednesday to listen to stories, engage in learning activities and borrow their own books at the Corangamite Library in Terang. Middle and Later year's students also access library facilities regularly at the Corangamite Library in Cobden.

How do I know if my child is eligible to attend Hampden Specialist School?

Potential students are commonly identified through early intervention prior to or during their kindergarten year. For a student to qualify for Hampden Specialist School they must have an IQ score of 70 or below as informed by a Cognitive assessment. If a recommendation is made for a student that may have additional learning needs or a family believes this may be necessary an application can be made for the student by the school you would like them to attend prior to their foundation year. This process will involve a Cognitive assessment to determine the student's eligibility for additional funding. If a student meets the criteria following the assessment process they are eligible to attend a specialist setting like Hampden, however this is only one option available to families from the range of other quality schools within our local network.

If you would like to find out more please don't hesitate to contact us on the details below.

Kind Regards,

Hampden Specialist School

Contact Us

Terang Campus

Phone: (03) 5592 2532

Address: School Road, Terang, 3264

Cobden campus (main office)

Phone: (03) 5595 1995

Address: 36 Grayland St, Cobden 3266

Postal Address: PO Box 77, Cobden 3266