

Victorian Government Schools, Australia

International Student Program

Primary Schools



A great education for every child

Victorian Government primary schools offer opportunities, choice, cultural diverse learning environments, life skills and, most importantly, a great education for every child.

Victoria, and its capital city Melbourne, are very multicultural and home to people from over 230 different cultures. One in four Victorians was born outside Australia. International students are very welcome and valued in our schools and during your child's time in Victoria they will not only be well supported to learn, but they will also be strongly supported as part of the school community.

There are over 1500 government primary schools located across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. All these schools are part of a strong and vibrant education system that ensures every child has the opportunity to thrive, learn, grow and shine. Many of these schools have been approved by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to also enrol international students. In order to do this, these schools provide high levels of care and support for international students.



The curriculum

The curriculum in Victorian Government primary schools emphasises literacy and numeracy. Literacy includes the ability to understand and produce both verbal and written language in a variety of settings, such as speaking and listening, reading and writing. Numeracy is the ability to understand and apply mathematics.

There are also opportunities to develop sporting, artistic and technical skills as students are encouraged to explore their world. Information and Communication Technology involves students using computers, digital cameras and a range of internet resources and software under teacher guidance.

Your child will sometimes learn with the whole class, and at other times be grouped for sessions with children who have similar learning styles and knowledge. Your child will also receive individual instruction when required. As your child develops, they will learn to work independently and collaboratively in flexible learning environments.

English as a second language

Many Victorian Government primary schools offer the subject English as a Second Language at all year levels. In addition, a range of other services, such as language support, are provided in schools to support students whose first language is other than English.

Wellbeing

Victorian Government schools welcome international students and provide them with a safe, secure and supportive environment. Teachers supervise children at all times and all schools have policies on safety and wellbeing.

Schools must also develop strategies to promote care, understanding, courtesy and mutual respect. Schools have personal development programs to equip children with positive attitudes and values, such as self-confidence, persistence, 'getting along with others' and resilience.

Welfare

Primary school students must reside with a parent or legal custodian for the duration of their primary school course.

Attendance

In Victoria, your child is expected to attend school every day of each term. It's important that children develop regular attendance habits at an early age.

Outside school hours care program

Many primary schools offer programs for school children outside school hours, including before and after school, during the holidays and on student-free days.

Uniforms and dress codes

Each school council decides whether its school will have a uniform, what the uniform will be and whether wearing it will be compulsory. Students are usually required to wear their school uniform during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when they are engaged in school activities out-of-school hours.

Physical education and school sport

Government schools promote the development of a healthy lifestyle by providing a supportive and active environment for physical education and sport. As well as increasing activity levels, physical education and school sport develop students' sense of fair play, self-confidence and the capacity for teamwork.

Physical education and sport are compulsory for all students from Prep to Year 10.

School sport also provides important connections into community sporting organisations that foster students' lifelong participation in healthy community physical activities. Swimming and athletics, Australian Rules football, soccer, netball, softball, golf and cricket are just some of the sports offered at school at a range of levels, including regional, state and national.

Student report cards

Student report cards are used in all Victorian Government schools to report student achievement in Years Prep to 10. Report cards are provided for parents in June and December every year.

Clearly written comments will tell you what your child knows and can do. It will also identify areas in which your child needs further help or can improve. The report card will clearly describe what the school will do to support your child and might suggest things you can do to help at home.

Parent–teacher interviews

Parent–teacher interviews are an opportunity for you to meet your child's teacher(s). By asking questions and gathering more detail about the information provided on the student report card, you have an opportunity to become more involved in your child's learning and give them support where needed.

It is expected that schools offer parent–teacher interviews at least once a year. You can also request interviews at other times. If you are concerned about your child's progress, discuss these concerns with their teacher. You can contact the school for an appointment and make a time to meet with your child's teacher or Year level coordinator.





Interpreting and translating services

All government schools can provide access to certain interpreting and translating services, free of charge, for parents from language backgrounds other than English

Schools can provide interpreters for a range of services, including:

- parent–teacher interviews
- information sessions on school programs
- issues concerning discipline or welfare
- educational assessment of students
- enrolling students.

Schools can also sometimes arrange translations of key newsletter items, school notices and program information.

How to apply

There are two ways to apply to study at a Victorian Government primary school:

- Apply directly to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development;

OR

- Apply through a Department accredited agent. Some parents prefer to use an agent who speaks their own language and is familiar with the application procedures.

Agents can make the process fast and efficient as they are experienced in dealing with staff within the International Education Division. Agents receive a commission from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for each student they enrol. There is a list of accredited agents on the Department's website: www.study.vic.gov.au

To apply, download an international student application form from the website, attach the required documentation and payment, and send to the Department (contact details can be found in the bottom left hand corner of this page).

It is important that your application is received within the timeframes for your country. Please refer to www.study.vic.gov.au for details on cut-off dates for your region.

Where to go to find out more about studying in Victoria

Further information about Victoria's education system and lifestyle can be found online at the following websites:

- For information on Victorian Government Schools, accredited agents and tuition fees visit www.study.vic.gov.au
- To find out more about education in Victoria visit www.education.vic.gov.au
- All Victorian schools are required to be registered and to meet standards under the Education and Training Reform Act. To search for a school, visit the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) website at www.vrqa.vic.gov.au
- For information about the many places to see and visit in Victoria go to www.visitvictoria.com.au
- To find out about how to get around when in Victoria please visit www.metlinkmelbourne.com.au

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