

WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE

SENIOR SECONDARY PATHWAYS (AND) ADMISSION POLICY

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WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING



WERRIBEE SECONDARY COLLEGE

GUIDING STATEMENT

Our Motto

Live worthily

Our Vision

Werribee Secondary College is a leader in international education in the Victorian state education system. We implement the best quality educational practices evident throughout Australia and internationally.

The Werribee Secondary College community **“lives worthily”**. We are adaptable life-long learners, who are confident, creative and resilient individuals, empowered to shape the world in which we live.

Our Mission

At Werribee Secondary College we strive for success in students’ chosen endeavours.

The College community provides a safe and caring environment where each student is valued. We celebrate achievements, success and growth for all students. Our programmes equip students with the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed for the dynamic world after secondary education.

College leaders, teachers and support staff adopt evidence-based best practice to generate a progressive 21st century educational setting. We enhance learning and develop digital literacy through the purposeful use of emerging technology. With a focus on realising optimal outcomes for learners, staff commit to continuous improvement through ongoing targeted professional development, peer collaboration and reflection.

At Werribee Secondary College we nurture the values of **respect, cooperation, honesty, integrity, confidence, perseverance, resilience and responsibility**. Driven by these ideals, the College community embraces cultural and social diversity. Students develop a strong sense of personal identity and global citizenship, enabling different cultural groups to interact, learn from each other and grow together.



SENIOR SECONDARY PATHWAYS AND ADMISSION POLICY

A. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This policy ensures Werribee Secondary College provides a broad range of programs for students in the later years as well as specifying admissions requirements to the general community.

Programs: The College offers our students a choice of three senior certificates.

1. International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)

Students at Werribee Secondary College have the opportunity to study the IB Diploma Program as an alternative to the VCE. The IB Diploma Program provides a cohesive and comprehensive program for independent learners. It equips students with the skills to effectively participate in a rapidly evolving global society, and to become active and compassionate lifelong learners. The IB Diploma Program is highly regarded by both Australian and International universities and an excellent tertiary preparation course.

2. Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL)

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is based on applied learning and designed to give students practical work-related experience, literacy and numeracy skills as well as build personal skills that are important for work and life. It also enables students to make informed choices regarding pathways to work and/or further education.

3. Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE)

Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is undertaken by students in Years 11 and 12 but can be started in Year 10. It provides a range of subjects to meet the needs of students and provides pathways to further study at university, TAFE or employment.

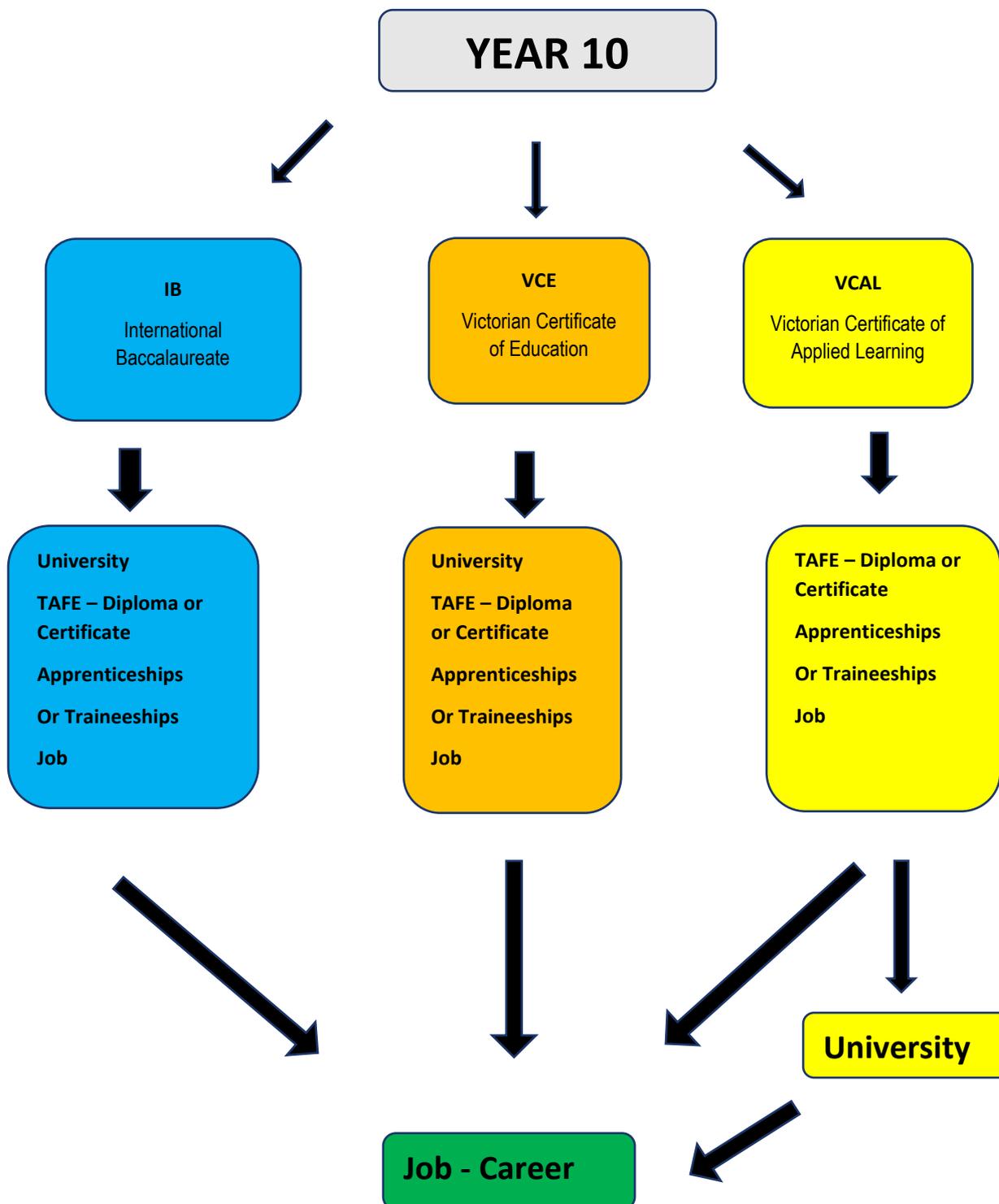
Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Schools is a vocationally oriented program that is part of either VCAL or VCE. It provides credit towards these certificates as well as the opportunity to undertake a nationally recognised VET qualification within the Australian Qualifications Framework.

Families are encouraged to discuss with the school the pathway that is best for their child and consider the following when making pathway decisions:

- What your child enjoys
- What he/she would like to do in the future
- What they are good at
- Specific learning needs



The first decision that needs to be made is which Certificate is the most suitable for the student to follow. This decision is made after consulting with guidance, offered by the Career’s team. The student profile and ultimate plans for their future will guide this decision. The diagram below clearly shows these three options:





B. ADMISSIONS TO THE SENIOR SCHOOL PROGRAMS

1. INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Werribee Secondary College supports the inclusion of all students in education. The IBO Diploma Program offers additional choice to our Senior Students completing their final years of secondary education. The information outlined here applies to all Year 10 students applying to access the IBO Diploma Program at Werribee Secondary College. Students must meet the requirements set out in the Promotion Policy so that they have the greatest chance of success in their adopted pathway of study.

1.1 Admission for existing Werribee Secondary College Year 10 IB Link and IB Stream Students

In addition to the criteria set in the College's Promotion Policy, students seeking admission to the IB Diploma Program are required to:

- Complete a written application, outlining their commitment to and capacity to work within the IB philosophy, and demonstrate the IB learner attributes.
- Receive Career Counselling to determine suitability for the program. This will be decided by the Diploma Programme (DP) Coordinator, working in conjunction with Senior School Staff.

1.2. Admission for new students

(Students who have not yet completed a semester's study at Werribee Secondary College, or who have completed some of that semester as students from another school).

1.2.1 Where students have a current report from a Victorian Secondary School, their most recent results will be used to determine admission: a student must have received teacher judgments that indicate that the student is at or above the expected standard in at least 5 subjects, which must include English and Mathematics.

1.2.2 Where students do not have a current report from a Victorian Secondary School, assessment evidence available may be submitted, and will be considered by the Senior School Assistant Principal and the Diploma Programme (DP) Coordinator. In these cases, the evidence must show that a student has an equivalent skill level to existing students to enter the program. Where evidence is insufficient, the school reserves the right to call for the student to sit further assessments to determine their suitability.

New students will also need to complete a written application, outlining their commitment to and capacity to work within the IB philosophy, and demonstrate the IB learner attributes.

Student suitability for the program will be decided by the Diploma Programme (DP) Coordinator, working in conjunction with Senior School leadership.

1.3 General conditions for all IB DP admissions

Where there are not enough places for applicants, admission to the DP program will be decided based on an interview process which assesses students using the IBO learner attributes.



1.4. Students and Parents must be aware of the features of the IB Diploma characterised by its:

- Academic breadth, depth and rigour which are recognised by universities world-wide
- Emphasis on the promotion of international awareness among students
- Attention to developing socially responsible citizens of the world with an awareness of global perspectives

The unique features of the IB include: the Extended Essay; the Theory of Knowledge (ToK); and the Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) Program. It embraces the culture and ethos of Werribee Secondary College attitudes and values.



Creativity, Activity and Service (CAS) Program develops the role of service to the community, a sense of global humanity and tolerance. The **Extended Essay (EE)** and **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)** are both highly academic and can be seen as providing a pathway from the senior secondary years to university study.

The IB Curriculum model represents six academic subject areas surrounding the core. Subjects are studied concurrently for two years. Subject scores are criterion marked and overall results are not ranked. Diploma candidates are required to select one subject from each of the six subject areas, with:

- At least three, and not more than four, taken at Higher Level (HL); and
- The remaining subjects taken at Standard Level (SL).

Students are able to explore some subjects in depth and others more broadly; which represents academic breadth over early specialisation.

Subject choice requirements ensure that the science-orientated student is challenged to learn a foreign language and the natural linguist becomes familiar with the scientific processes. While balance is maintained, flexibility is catered for with the student choosing their Higher Level subjects to pursue areas of personal interest and to meet special requirements for university entrance.

Information on how IB Results are converted to ATAR can be found on this link:

[https://assets.ibaustoralasia.org/page/5/2018-19 IB ATAR Conversion.pdf](https://assets.ibaustoralasia.org/page/5/2018-19%20IB%20ATAR%20Conversion.pdf)

2. THE VCE STUDY PROGRAM

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is undertaken by students in Years 11 and 12 but can be started in Year 10. It provides a range of subjects to meet the needs of students and provides pathways to further study at university, TAFE or employment. Students seeking to undertake the VCE Program must successfully complete all requirements for promotion to year 11 at Werribee Secondary College.



At Werribee Secondary College students who choose the VCE are enrolling into an academic certificate with the aim of obtaining an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) and future tertiary study.

The VCE (Victorian Certificate of Education) is awarded to students who successfully complete accredited studies in Years 11 & 12.

2.1. Choosing subjects for the VCE

Prior to choosing their VCE Subjects, Year 9 and 10 students receive Course Counselling as well as attend a Careers Expo Day and Information Sessions. Students choose subjects that are prerequisites for university study. They are also highly encouraged to choose subjects that they are good at and that they enjoy. Student choice and available resources decide which subjects run. Placement in classes for year 11 are decided using year 10 academic results. Students who are assessed as capable of undertaking a VCE subject in Year 10 are offered VCE unit 1 subjects in Year 10.

2.2. Choosing a VCE Course

In order to successfully complete their VCE studies, students are required to include at least 4 units of English across year 11 and year 12.

Most students study 22 Units over two years in their VCE programs.

- 6 units in each semester of Year 11, a total of 12 units.
- 5 units in each semester of Year 12, a total of 10 units.

2.3 Successful Completion of the VCE and eligibility for an ATAR

To be eligible for promotion to year 12 year 11 students must satisfactorily complete 8 units including one unit of English.

To be eligible for the award of the VCE and an ATAR, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum 16 units. These must include:

- A minimum of THREE units of English.
- A minimum of FOUR Unit 3/4 sequences (including English)

Information on how ATAR is calculated can be found on:

<http://www.vtac.edu.au/pdf/publications/abcofscaling.pdf>

3. VICTORIAN CERTIFICATE OF APPLIED LEARNING (VCAL) PROGRAM

This is an accredited Senior Secondary school qualification. Upon completion of the Year 10 requirements at Werribee Secondary College, students may choose this as their Senior Secondary pathway.

Werribee Secondary College offers the following certificates:

- Year 11: Intermediate Certificate
- Year 12: Senior Certificate.

The VCAL will give students practical work-related experience and a qualification that will be



recognised by TAFE institutes and employers. Together these will help you move from school into work, an apprenticeship or traineeship and/or further training in tertiary courses.

VCAL may not be the best option for students considering going to University straight from school, but it is still possible to pathway into University courses by undertaking VCAL and VET programs.

4. INFORMATION ABOUT THE VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN SCHOOLS (VET)

Vocational Education and Training refers to enhanced senior school studies, which enable a secondary student to combine their VCE or VCAL studies with vocational training. VET is **usually** a two-year program combining general VCE or VCAL studies with accredited vocational education and training. It enables students to complete a nationally recognised vocational qualification (e.g. Certificate III in Business). It provides the opportunity to trial a career and helps students explore possible areas of interest which promote further study and work choices. VET allows students to go directly into employment or receive credit towards further TAFE study. VET matches student interest and career directions consolidating the career pathway. Important industry specific skills and workplace skills are learnt through the VET program. Upon successful completion of the program, students are awarded a nationally accredited vocational training certificate.

A VET in Schools program is usually made up of VCE and/or VCAL VET units that are delivered at the student's school, another school within the Wyndham VET Cluster or at TAFE.

4.1 Contribution to the VCE AND ATAR

VET is fully incorporated into the VCE. Key features include:

- VET programs usually have a 1 – 4 Units structure. Of the 16 units that make up the VCE, an unlimited number can be VET units.
- VET programs contribute directly to the ATAR with a study score derived from scored assessment OR as a 10% increment as a 5th or 6th subject. However, in some instances there is nil contribution towards ATAR when Units are at Year 11, 1 and 2 level only.
- All School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBAT) courses contribute as a unit 3 & 4 sequence with no score, but contributes a 10% increment as a 5th or 6th subject for your score.
- For more information, access the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) website. www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

4.2 Contribution to the VCAL

- A VET subject contributes to the satisfactory completion of the VCAL as Industry Specific Skills
- 90 hours of VET gains one VCAL credit. This usually represents one semester of classes.
- As **Structured Workplace Learning (SWL)**: Students undertake work with an employer that enables the student to demonstrate their acquired skills and knowledge in an industry setting. During the Structured Workplace Learning, a student will have specific tasks to



undertake in order to demonstrate competence. Students will be regularly monitored and may be assessed on the job.

C. ACCESS TO THIS POLICY

Families are able to access this information through the following:

- College Website
- Senior School Handbook
- Compass

Additional information regarding Senior School Programs offered at Werribee Secondary College can be accessed through the following:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.ibo.org/>

REVIEW PERIOD

This policy was last updated on 06/2019 and is scheduled for review on 06/2022.