



Curriculum Information Sheet

Curriculum

In 2009 The John Berne School received Registration and Accreditation from the Board of Studies for the next 5 years. Until 2004 this was only ever awarded for 2 years. 2004 was the first time The John Berne School received full 5-year registration.

The curriculum at Berne is designed for students who:

- have behavioural problems.
- are school refusers.
- may not cope in traditional schools (academically and/or socially).
- have been excluded or at risk of exclusion from school.

It is also for students who would benefit from:

- Time out to improve their literacy, numeracy, and social skills.
- More individual attention and a flexible learning environment.
- Being encouraged to move beyond what holds them back.
- Experiences such as outdoor challenges, work experience, and voluntary service in the community.

Year 7 and 8

The year 7 and 8 program run the following academic subjects:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Geography
- History
- LOTE
- Design and Technology
- Visual Arts
- PD/H/PE

There is also an extensive Personal Development program which incorporates lesson time, journal time, and some Friday activities. Part of this program is the Outdoor Education component which incorporates a camp each term. These are normally very challenging for our students and help them to learn more about their



strengths and weaknesses as well as helping them to become more aware of community living.

Throughout each term are excursions which have been developed specifically for our students. These excursions encourage the students to develop positive social skills and also give them the opportunity to participate in activities that they may not otherwise undertake.

Year 9 and 10

The year 9 and 10 program is aimed specifically at the students receiving a full School Certificate in the following subjects:

- Mathematics (Advanced, Intermediate, or Standard)
- English
- Science
- Australian History, Civics, and Citizenship
- Australian Geography, Civics, and Citizenship
- Wood Technics or Visual Arts
- Personal Development—Social
- Personal Development

PD/H/PE

As part of the Personal Development subjects—which are endorsed by the Board of Studies—the following programs are run:

- *Work Experience and Careers Education:* Each term, each student completes one week of work experience and one careers education day. This program has been very advantageous to our past students who have built up very impressive resumés over the time that they are with us. A number of students are even promised apprenticeships when they complete their School Certificate. Part of this program is that the students must undertake one Community based work experience each year which can range from working in pre-schools, primary schools, and nursing homes to working in a Vinnies Stores. This has proven to be very successful and quite an eye opener for our students.
- *Outdoor Education:* Each term the students undertake some form of challenge camp that has been designed specifically to help them learn more about their strengths and weaknesses, as well as helping them to become more aware of community living. These camps may involve canoeing, bushwalking, bike riding, or skiing.
- *Religious Education:* As well as at other times there are specific Religious Education days each term that are associated with specific feast days. These include Easter, The Feast of St. Marcellin Champagnat, the Feast of the Assumption, and All Souls Day. The students actively participate in a mass and then complete various activities relating to the particular day that we are celebrating.



- *Education for Leisure:* These days are designed to encourage students to use their leisure time more productively and in pursuits that are going to be of benefit rather than detriment to them. These activities may include playing golf, bushwalking, going to the movies, catching a ferry to Manly, or fishing. One of the main goals of these days is also to show the students how to undertake these activities without getting into trouble from the authorities.
- *Personal Development:* There are a number of issues that confront our students and it is these issues that we try to address on our PD Days. These can range from drug and alcohol abuse to sexuality to low self esteem. These days are often very tiring for the students as they are confronted by the reality of their situations. We often invite guest speakers in on these days who often positively comment on our students participation.
- *Skills for Living:* Many of our students have never been given the opportunity to garden, paint, or cook—all those basic skills that they require to live an average life. It is these skills that we encourage our students to develop on these days. Teachers often watch in amazement as a student washes up for the first time.

Further Information

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