



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is Aspire?**

Aspire is an accelerated educational enrichment program for students in Years 7 to 9 who share a passion for and commitment to learning, have exceptional abilities across multiple disciplines and are highly motivated to reach their full potential.

### **How are Aspire students selected?**

Entry to Aspire is by invitation on the basis of academic testing and an application process.

### **How many students are accepted into Aspire?**

Aspire runs two classes at each year level – one class of girls at Christ the King Campus and one class of boys at St John's Campus. Each class has between 25 - 28 students.

### **Does Aspire run for a student's entire time at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College?**

No. Aspire applies only from Years 7 to 9. Other enrichment and acceleration pathways are available in later years.

### **Can a student enter Aspire in later years if they are not in the program at Year 7?**

Sometimes. Students who show exceptional academic performance in Year 7 or Year 8 may be invited to participate in Aspire in the following year, depending on class space.

### **Do Aspire students undertake different course work?**

Yes. The Aspire program not only complies with the normal Victorian Curriculum Assessment Authority (VCAA) standards but extends students via higher-order learning approaches and an accelerated pace. The curriculum is negotiated with students to cater for individual needs and to challenge and engage every student. Tasks are designed with a cross-curriculum focus, so students are able to apply skills from multiple learning areas to real world problems. In addition, music enhancement is part of the core Aspire program at Years 7 and 8.

### **Do Aspire students work through content quicker than the rest of their year level?**

Yes. Aspire students can be working 6 to 12 months ahead, reflecting a pace that suits their learning needs. Teachers ensure students have a sound understanding of concepts and can demonstrate their learning to a high standard before moving on to the next area of the curriculum, offering extra support if required. Students study subjects more deeply as well as faster.

### **Are Aspire students separated from the rest of their year level?**

Yes, but only for some of the time. Aspire students undertake all core subjects together but have the opportunity to mix with others in subjects like performing arts, visual arts, music and technology. There are also many other opportunities for Aspire students to work and socialise with other students such as sporting days, reflection days, excursions and incursions.



### **Do Aspire students have more homework?**

No.

### **Are Aspire students expected to maintain certain grades?**

Yes. Aspire students are expected to maintain grades which reflect their capabilities in each subject, and to show a high standard of learning behaviours and commitment to their studies. Students who do not meet these expectations may be moved to an alternate learning group.

### **Can a student leave the Aspire program?**

Yes. Students can ask to leave Aspire at the end of a semester, subject to available space in other classes, and after discussion with their parents/carers and teachers.

### **Will Aspire students be able to complete Year 12 earlier?**

Accelerated VCE studies are not part of the Aspire program, which covers Years 7 to 9. However, many Aspire graduates go on to undertake VCE at an accelerated rate, for example studying a Year 11 subject in Year 10 or Year 12 subject in Year 11.

Through partnerships with university providers, students can also undertake tertiary units at Year 12, granted on a case-by-case basis in consultation with students, parents/carers and teachers.

Aspire students often go on to complete more VCE subjects than their peers, but do not leave school earlier.

### **Is there any formal recognition for completing Aspire?**

Students receive a certificate after completing Aspire which they can include in applications for university entry or employment.

### **Will it cost extra to be involved in Aspire?**

No.

### **Who teaches Aspire?**

A small group of College teachers teach within Aspire, and work closely together to collaborate, plan, develop and implement valuable and challenging educational experiences for students.

### **Contact**

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