



Melbourne Girls Grammar

an Anglican school

Merton Hall
86 Anderson Street South Yarra 3141

Learning Strategies

to cater for individual differences in students
from the Early Learning Centre to Year 12

Learning Strategies

Junior School (Morris Hall and the BTC)

The Individual Differences Program

Education today is about fostering curiosity and a love of lifelong learning. This involves sparking an interest in each student and encouraging creativity, imagination, critical thinking and problem solving.

At MGGS we believe that it is essential to recognise individual differences in learning styles and developmental levels. In order to provide appropriate opportunities for each student to maximise her potential, we employ a variety of learning strategies at each level from the Early Learning Centre to Year 12.

The Special Education teachers work closely with staff in the Extended Curriculum Program to ensure that these learning strategies cater for the full spectrum - from those students with high intellectual potential through to those students requiring extra support.

In catering for individual differences in learning, the School aims to:

- recognise the uniqueness of every child
- provide a positive approach to the education of all girls
- recognise what each girl brings to the community, as a person, as well as a learner
- identify individual learning styles
- provide flexible structures that ensure educational provision for a variety of talents
- assist staff members in adapting instruction in response to learner needs
- facilitate specialist assessments for any girls requiring in-depth evaluation
- identify and refer students with high intellectual potential or requiring learning support strategies through:
 - Observation
 - Specific diagnostic testing
 - Staff or parent referral
 - Student referral
 - Principal referral following end of term reports



At the Junior School (Morris Hall and the Barbara Tolson Centre) we understand that each child brings to the task of learning an innate and experiential background that is unique to them. We believe children need this individuality acknowledged and respected. The learning experiences we share with the children are positive, their strengths are identified and encouraged and weaknesses supported in an overall development plan.

Furthermore we understand that education must be holistic. Our school environment ensures that each girl feels confident to take responsible risks to expand her horizons, experiencing joy, satisfaction and success in her learning.

We provide a comprehensive program for both the support and extension of our students depending on their individual learning styles. Our Co-ordinator of Individual Differences helps both classroom and specialist teachers to find the most appropriate method of teaching to meet the individual learning styles of all students.

Progress is monitored regularly through a range of assessment tools including testing, projects, rubrics, portfolios and authentic assessment methods conducted by individual teachers.



Junior School continued

The Individual Differences Program

A variety of methods highlight each child's personality, learning styles, preferred modality and preferred intelligence.

To monitor and support each child's learning development the following occur:

- A team approach involving the teaching staff and the Co-ordinator of Individual Differences can involve the School Counsellor and a range of private consultants including gifted development, and a variety of educational, or paramedical specialists
- Curriculum and extension support is offered to individuals or small groups
- ESL programs are provided by mainstream support or in small groups
- In certain circumstances flexible placement may occur, ie early entry or acceleration
- Enrichment and extension are provided within all curriculum and co-curricular areas
- Specific focus is available at the Year 1 level where a specialised withdrawal Language/ Literacy program is provided for short term, or extended, development of individual girls

Examples of Co-curricular opportunities at the Junior School

- Extension Maths Classes
- Maths Talent Quest
- Maths Olympiad
- Science Talent Search
- Astronomy Club
- Debating
- Public Speaking
- Mentor Matching



Senior School (Merton Hall)

Learning Support Strategies

At Merton Hall, students requiring support in specific areas can be catered for, when appropriate, in individual or small group withdrawal sessions. In addition, the Special Education Staff and ESL Co-ordinator assist teachers in the identification of learning styles and support strategies for individual students, as well as modification of the curriculum where necessary. Staff members also welcome, and liaise with, external specialists engaged by parents.

Study Skills sessions at Merton Hall are organised by the Special Education Teacher and can involve:

- A year level
- Small groups
- Individuals
- Organisation and time management skills
- Exam techniques
- Motivation and application issues

Students are also offered assistance with study skills, testing and examination techniques, time management and organisation by the Special Education Department.



Senior School (Merton Hall)

The Extended Curriculum Program

At MGGS we believe that all children benefit from enrichment and opportunities for creativity and challenge. Our classroom teachers work hard to deliver a differentiated curriculum for all students. However, we also acknowledge that very able students require work that is unusually complex, rigorous and beyond the scope of the regular classroom. They need to be encouraged to achieve excellence in challenging activities within a climate where they can take risks and make mistakes. We aim to provide opportunities for them to extend themselves; pit their strengths against the wider community through external activities such as competitions or connectedness with the global village using state-of-the-art technology.

At Merton Hall, we have developed a comprehensive curricular approach to the learning needs of highly able learners. The Extended Curriculum Program offers extension classes in English, Mathematics and Languages Other Than English (LOTE) from Years 7 – 10. These are full time classes for which advanced curricula have been developed.

Learning strategies to cater for the needs of very able students at Merton Hall include:

- Early entry
- Identification
- Flexible pacing
- Acceleration
- Differentiated curricula
- Ability grouping for specific subjects
- Withdrawal for some extension/enrichment activities
- Individualised time-tabling, whereby students can work at different year levels for certain subjects, including VCE Units 1- 4
- Individualised Education Programs
- Individual support
- In-class grouping and extension for individuals in specific subject areas
- Mentoring for students who have strong interests and potential ability in particular fields of endeavour

Community based contexts for participation include:

- University of Melbourne Mentor Program
- Senior Philosophy Colloquia
- University of Melbourne Extension Program, First Year Mathematics
- Chess
- Debating
- Mooting
- United Nations Youth Association
- CSIRO Student Research Scheme

Co-curricular Opportunities

In addition to the Extended Curriculum Program MGGS encourages the development of individual interests and talents through a wide range of curricular and co-curricular activities which are faculty based.

The staff at Merton Hall encourage participation in competitions and other events as yet another strategy to cater for individual differences in learning.

Some of these events include:

- Mathematics Challenge
- Mathematics Talent Quest
- Kable Mathematics
- University of Melbourne Mathematics Competition
- Mathematics Olympiad
- National History Challenge
- Students' Constitutional Convention
- Australian Science Competition
- AMP Economics Competition
- Stock Market Game
- NSW Science/Mathematics/English Competition
- Australian National Chemistry Competition
- Asia Wise and Australian Geography Competition
- Alliance Francaise Poetry Competition
- Dante Alighieri Competition
- Writers-in-Residence
- Latin Poetry Competition
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Life Drawing Classes



Enquiries

We would be delighted to discuss your daughter's learning needs and to assist in preparing a program for her.

Senior School

Merton Hall

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Email: enrolments@mggs.vic.edu.au
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Middle School: Years 7 – 9
Senior School: Years 10 – 12

Junior School

Morris Hall

100 Caroline Street
South Yarra, Victoria 3141 Australia

Telephone: +61 3 9862 9200

Junior School: Years 1 – 6

Early Learning Centre

Barbara Tolson Centre

63 Clowes Street
South Yarra, Victoria 3141 Australia

Telephone: +61 3 9862 9240

3 and 4 year old Kindergarten



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