



# Learning at Hillbrook

## 2023 Curriculum Overview

In Balance We Grow



## Curriculum at Hillbrook

At Hillbrook, 'curriculum' means all the intended experiences that our students undertake in or out of the classroom. Our curriculum offers a wide range of learning experiences, designed to help students develop intellectually, personally, spiritually and physically. Creative thinking and problem-solving are encouraged and students are involved in many activities across the school, as well as more formal classroom situations.

### Junior School (Years 7 to 10)

#### Year 7 2023

In Year 7, our aim is to provide students with the essential skills for success in the core areas of our curriculum, as well as to provide exposure to subjects with which they may have had little contact in their primary school years.

Core Curriculum	One Semester of each subject
English	Art
Mathematics	Digital Technologies
Science	Design & Technology
Global Studies	Drama
Outdoor Education	Food Technology
Religious Studies	German
Physical Education	Japanese
Health	Music
Personal & Spiritual Development	
Philosophical Inquiry	



## Year 8 2023

In Year 8, we continue the focus on developing essential skills for success in the core areas of our curriculum, as well as to provide the opportunity to develop their own areas of interest with a choice of three elective subjects:

### Core Curriculum

English  
Mathematics  
Science  
Global Studies  
Outdoor Education  
Religious Studies  
Physical Education  
Health  
Personal & Spiritual Development  
Philosophical Inquiry

### Elective Subjects

*Students choose three of these subjects for the entire year*

[Art](#)  
[Business Studies](#)  
[Design](#)  
[Digital Technologies](#)  
[Drama](#)  
[Engineering](#)  
[Food and Nutrition](#)  
[German](#)  
[Industrial Technology Skills](#)  
[Japanese](#)  
[Music](#)



## Years 9 and 10 2023

In Years 9 and 10, the emphasis remains on developing a strong set of core skills. Additionally, students have the opportunity to pursue their own particular areas of interest, with a choice of three elective subjects.

### Core Curriculum

English  
Mathematics  
Science  
Global Studies  
Outdoor Education  
Religious Studies  
Physical Education  
Health  
Personal & Spiritual Development  
Philosophical Inquiry

### Elective Subjects

*Students choose three of these subjects for the entire two years*

[Art](#)  
[Business Studies](#)  
[Design](#)  
[Digital Technologies](#)  
[Drama](#)  
[Engineering](#)  
[Food and Nutrition](#)  
[German](#)  
[Industrial Technology Skills](#)

[Japanese](#)

[Music](#)

[Discovering Data – Extension Elective](#)

[Aspire English – Extension Elective](#)

[Aspire Science – Extension Elective](#)



## Senior School (Years 11 & 12)

As our students make the transition into senior schooling, they continue to study certain core subjects, with all students continuing with English and Mathematics. Students also have the opportunity to further specialise in areas of particular interest or expertise, or to maintain a more diverse course.

All students studying at Hillbrook are expected to be eligible for an ATAR which is used to determine university entry. Similarly, all students should become eligible for a QCE [Queensland Certificate of Education].

### Years 11 and 12

Core Curriculum	Electives Subjects continued
<a href="#">English</a> , <a href="#">Essential English</a> or <a href="#">Literature</a>	<a href="#">Drama</a>
<a href="#">Essential Mathematics</a>	<a href="#">Economics</a>
<a href="#">(Applied)</a> or <a href="#">General</a>	<a href="#">Engineering</a>
<a href="#">Mathematics</a> or <a href="#">Mathematical</a>	English & Literature Extension*
<a href="#">Methods</a>	<a href="#">Food and Nutrition</a>
General Mathematics or	<a href="#">Geography</a>
Mathematic Methods	<a href="#">German</a>
Outdoor Education	<a href="#">Industrial Technology Skills</a>
Religious Studies	<a href="#">Japanese</a>
Personal & Spiritual Development	<a href="#">Literature</a>
Negotiated Time	<a href="#">Modern History</a>
	<a href="#">Music</a>
Elective Subjects	Music Extension*
<i>Students choose four of these subjects</i>	<a href="#">Philosophy and Reason</a>
<i>for the entire 2 years</i>	<a href="#">Physical Education</a>
<a href="#">Accounting</a>	<a href="#">Physics</a>
<a href="#">Ancient History</a>	<a href="#">Psychology</a>
<a href="#">Biology</a>	<a href="#">Specialist Mathematics</a>

[Business](#)

[Chemistry](#)

[Design](#)

[Digital Solutions](#)

[Visual Art](#)

\* Offered in Year 12 only

## Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education is central to the philosophy of Hillbrook and touches many aspects of the personal and social development of each student in the school. It brings the environment closer to every student at a time when our direct contact with the outdoors is diminishing for society as a whole. It is also an excellent vehicle for the development of those highly prized qualities of initiative, self-reliance, co-operation, leadership, self-worth and a sense of a personal place in the greater whole.

The program consists of a camp each year of a minimum of four days with additional activity days. In these, skills are taught to enhance the quality of the experiences on camps. The program is developmental and culminates in a self-directed backpacking expedition in Year 12.

One of the strengths of the Hillbrook Outdoor Education Program is that it offers a variety of learning environments. Students experience rainforest, mountain, beach and river environments during their education in the outdoors.



## Personal and Spiritual Development (PSD)

This course underpins the philosophy of the school in that it requires students to develop knowledge, understanding, skills, reasoning and emotional concepts. The most fundamental of these is contained within the school motto, '*In Balance We Grow*'. This encompasses the idea of balance in the following aspects of life:

- The balance of self-knowledge, understanding and relationships with others.
- The balance of intellect, emotion and spirituality.
- The balance of individual, family and community.

Students are challenged to become aware of, understand, question, develop, and express their own beliefs and understandings. PSD encourages students to see their own growth as dynamic, changing, empowering, and ongoing, and to place it in the context of the journey of life.

PSD includes a variety of life experiences including esteem building, assertiveness, conflict resolution, decision-making, spirituality of place and belonging, work education, substance abuse, loss and grief, people with differences, study skills, communication and love/partnerships/marriage. The course culminates with Year 12 students developing and presenting their '*Philosophy of Life*' to their teachers and peers.

Work experience, career and course selection and the Community Action Program are also part of the PSD course at Hillbrook.



## Philosophical Inquiry

At Hillbrook we believe the ability to think well is fundamental to the lives of all people. We also acknowledge the support and strength inherent in being part of a strong community. Thus, Hillbrook is a thinking-centred school that provides opportunities for members of our community to work together to become creative, independent thinkers. This is practically strengthened by engaging our students in collaborative Philosophical Inquiry (PI).

PI is an intellectually rigorous process that requires critical, creative and caring thinking. During their weekly PI sessions, Years 7, 8 and 9 students ask questions, make judgements and make sense of the world. As life's big questions are explored, respect and reason are developed and practised. By listening to each other, building on each other's ideas and understanding that there will be many possible answers, students learn to be fair and open-minded, intellectually cooperative and mutually respectful. By reflecting on prevailing beliefs, exploring possible alternatives and giving and accepting reasons, they learn to be reflective, sensitive to meaning, divergent, and reasonable. By reflecting on their own thinking and the thinking of others, the skills of metacognition are developed.

When we are doing PI, we agree that:

- We are seeking understanding and meaning in our lives.
- We listen carefully to each other, where everyone's ideas are important.
- We think about what others are saying and meaning.
- We build on the ideas of others.
- We explore disagreements respectfully.
- There will be many suitable answers that we will need to consider and evaluate.
- Best of all – we understand that it is alright to change one's mind in response to a justified reason.

Through engagement in PI, students become creative, independent thinkers – an expectation for all students at Hillbrook.

## Religion at Hillbrook

A lot of care was taken when the school was started to think afresh about how people grow in character and understanding, and in beliefs, values and spirituality, and to bring these vital insights into balance.

We regard it as important that our approach to religion should be in harmony with the philosophy of the school.

### What Anglican means

Hillbrook is affiliated with the Anglican Church, and is fully integrated with the Anglican Schools' Commission of the Diocese of Brisbane. We are a Christian school; we have a responsibility to teach the Christian faith, discovering faith by the Anglican journey, but we do not force undigested dogma or set religious routine on people. The Anglican journey encourages "reason" (freedom for careful and exploratory thinking and questions), "tradition" (we respect and use it), and "scripture" (meaning we reverence the earthy and sublime magnificence of the Bible as the norm for Christian faith). In this spirit, we welcome people of other traditions without reserve, though we expect them to involve themselves in the full extent of our curriculum.

### Religious Studies

In the course, students are encouraged to explore religious and spiritual issues, affecting a range of important aspects of their lives and what is happening in the world around them. Students are encouraged to compare their ideas with Christian insights from the Bible and other Christian sources. The students come to class full of interesting ideas, insights, and sometimes actual knowledge. For this reason there is freedom for students to say what they think, and we firmly insist that they listen to others. This very wide-ranging course is studied by all year levels.



## Chapel

Once per fortnight for 20 minutes, Home Classes come to “Chapel”. These sessions are reflections on a current theme, and are the result of much thought and preparation by many people. Chapel always involves several students, and there is a roster of leaders, including the Chaplain, teachers, and the school’s leaders. Chapel includes a careful, student-involving presentation using a variety of possible forms, followed by a time for reflection and prayer.



## Music

Music is recognised as an integral part of the curriculum at Hillbrook.

The academic Music course, at all year levels, is built around three equally balanced dimensions of study:

- Composing
- Performing
- Analysing

All Year 7 and 8 students participate in academic Music during which every student learns an instrument in small group lessons with a specialist instrumental teacher. In Years 9, 10, 11 and 12, Music is an elective subject.

Music extension is an academic Music elective offered to Year 12 academic Music students. In this class, students develop their skills in one of the three dimensions of study.

In addition to the academic component of Music, Hillbrook offers an extensive and high quality co-curricular Music program in which students have the opportunity to undertake individual instrumental or voice lessons with a specialist teacher. Students involved in the co-curricular Music program are encouraged to become involved in one or more of the many performance ensembles. These include; concert bands, string orchestras, choirs, stage bands, brass bands, percussion ensembles, guitar ensembles and small chamber groups. Student generated ensembles are also encouraged and supported with facilities and performance opportunities.

At Hillbrook, there is a strong link between the academic and co-curricular Music programs. This allows students to benefit academically from the effort put into their individual co-curricular activities and, in turn, classroom activities compliment the practical performance skills accordingly.

Performance opportunities at Hillbrook are numerous and varied and give young musicians the chance to develop their performance skills in a supportive and appreciative environment.

