



Primary School

Primary Schooling (Kindergarten to Year 6) at Heights College provides high academic standards and a commitment to loving and caring relationships. Our strong culture promotes and reflects the Godly principles and values that have made Heights College the signature school that it is today. Respect and consideration for others before self is encouraged through the Heights Way framework which seeks to provide the building blocks for students to grow in Godly character and leadership. Communication between home and school is highly valued and staff members quickly attend to any academic and pastoral issues that may arise.

Mrs Lucy Vanheck, the Head of Primary is responsible for the oversight of all classes from Kindergarten to Year 6, and is ably assisted by experienced and dedicated class teachers.

Specialist teachers also provide a wide variety of programs in Music and Drama, Physical Education, Interschool Sport, Library, Educational Support and Chinese.

College Library & Library Borrowing

An ever-growing collection of resources is available in the College Learning and Leadership Centre (the Library). Students may use computer-based resources as well as photocopying services. Students are encouraged to borrow regularly, using the College library bag. Books, magazines and CDs may be borrowed for designated time periods: Kindy – Year 2 (one book), Years 3-6 (two books). Books may be borrowed for a period of one week and may extend their loan once.

Students are accountable for the return and care of any books or material borrowed by them. Overdue notices are sent to students and if books are lost or damaged, parents will be notified promptly and may incur a replacement cost.

Take Home Reading Program

Take Home Reading is a vital tool in Primary, assisting students with regular, compulsory reading opportunities at home. This process is stringently monitored to encourage students to read regularly to parents and friends on a daily basis.

Homework

Homework is a vital part of the learning process for all students in Years P–6. Please allocate daily homework time

in your home routine. It assists the development of disciplined study habits and is an effective way of revising and practising what has been learned in the classroom. As a general guide, students should be doing homework four nights a week, and occasionally time may be allocated for projects and preparation for tests or exams. In all year levels a Homework Sheet Booklet is given out once a week to be returned completed the same day the following week.

Reading constitutes a vital part of the homework process right through Primary, and should involve more than the requirements of the Take Home Reading Program. While time should be put aside each night for younger children/poor readers to read aloud to an adult, older children should read silently, hopefully for pleasure.

Assessment

Assessment is ongoing throughout the year and is both formative and summative. Assessment within classes consists of a variety of methods including but not limited to tests, running records, observation, anecdotal records, work samples and student self-reflection. Formal reports are emailed to parents at the end of Semester 1 and Semester 2, and are continuously available via Parent Lounge.

Parent-teacher Interviews

At the end of Term 1 a compulsory Parent/Teacher Interview is held with all families to briefly share each child's progress since the start of the year and to offer strategies to assist parents to work with the school in overcoming difficulties and extending students' progress.

Extension Opportunities

Heights College supports a philosophy of inclusive education to develop our students who have a diverse range of abilities. In addition to supportive and innovative classroom programs, Primary Schooling at Heights College offers the opportunities from time to time to extend the differing needs of our students.

Year 5 Instrumental Program

The Instrumental Music Program assists students in individual instruction in Flute, Clarinet, Trombone, Trumpet, Saxophone, Drums, Percussion and Piano. As part of the Music curriculum, all Year 5 students are given the opportunity to join the class band, and to try their hand at an instrument, loaned to them by the school. Students may go on to join one of the College bands or ensembles to further enhance their Music education.

Competitions

Students from Year 3 participate in UNSW English, Mathematics and Science competitions. Nominations for Computer Skills, Spelling and Writing competitions are optional, and are paid by parents.

The College also takes opportunities as they arise to enter teams into community competitions such as Eisteddfods, Optiminds, Maths Challenge, Robotics, Chess and Science competitions and so on.

PE/ Interschool Sports Program

Development in all areas of each student's physical abilities and skills, health education and sportsmanship is encouraged in each year level. Years 1 - 4 take part in intra-school team competitions in Terms 2 and 3, to further enhance student involvement and build greater pride and team spirit.

This expands to Interschool Sport involvement on Friday afternoons for the 10 to 12 year age groups as they undertake non-competitive fixtures in Netball, Basketball, Hockey and Rugby League.

Monitoring Literacy & Numeracy Development

Kindergarten and Preparatory student development of readiness for formal schooling is monitored via the Brigance screening tool.

The standardised online Progressive Achievement Test (PAT) from ACER testing for all students in Years Prep to 6 is conducted each year and identifies areas of strength and weakness in Literacy and Numeracy which assists teachers' planning and placement of students for the following year.

Mathletics and Reading Eggs

These online resources are available to students in the Primary School, helping students to enjoy maths and reading. Students can access the program online at home as well as at school and can challenge other students from around the world.

Technology

Heights College is committed to providing regular formal computer lessons for all Primary classes instructing students in computer technology, computer literacy and use of the Internet.

Computers are available in the withdrawal room attached to all classrooms in Hoseenu, there are two computer labs and computers in the Learning and Leadership Centre to aid in further instruction and research. All Primary students have access to class sets of iPads in addition to the computer labs for once per week during class time, and again at lunch breaks.

All teachers use interactive white boards regularly to enhance their learning environment in a very unique way and to see concepts and ideas presented through multi-media channels.

Morning Tea and Lunch Procedure

Primary students are required to eat morning tea and lunch in set areas. Upper Primary students are under the Hub for the first 10 minutes and lower Primary students are on Hoseenu verandah for the first 10 minutes.

Primary students are encouraged to:

- Get a drink and go to the toilet on the way to or from the Hub.
- Sit away from the fence and not on the stage or step area.
- Remain seated for 10 minutes of the Morning Tea time
- Eat out of their lunchboxes rather than placing food or packaging on the concrete floor.
- Place all scraps in the rubbish bin when leaving the area.

Once students are dismissed they may go to play in supervised areas around the College.

Outside School Hours Care

From 2019, Heights College will provide before and after school care, and vacation care for all Primary students from Kindergarten through Year 6, available from 7am – 5.30pm.

The program is accredited and staffed by Heights College, and the aim of the program is to seamlessly continue to provide care that reflects our Christian culture and ethos.

Further information is available at the College office or on this website at <https://heights.qld.edu.au/outside-school-hours-and-vacation-care> .