



Williamstown High School SEAL Program Policy

1. Rationale

Students in the Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program are fostered to fulfil their academic and developmental potential through access to a stimulating and rigorous curriculum in an engaging learning environment. A mixture of accelerated and enriched curriculum ensures that all subjects are studied with breadth, depth and, where possible, at an accelerated pace. Accelerated learning takes into account the nature of students' academic abilities, and aims to eliminate the repetition of previously mastered skills and content. Students in SEALP have the advantage of collaborating with a class of similar academic and scholastic ability, challenging them to develop at a faster rate whilst still investigating topics in depth.

2. Purpose

We provide a Select Entry Accelerated Learning Program for students who have exceptional academic ability. As a member of The Academy of Accredited SEAL Schools (TAASS) we maintain the tradition and high standards of like-minded students who develop academically, socially and emotionally. We provide opportunities for SEAL students to accelerate through secondary school and to undertake challenging learning experiences, which are tailored to deliver outstanding academic achievement.

Our curriculum is compacted so the mainstream Year 7 – 10 program is covered in a 3-year period via a comprehensive and specific SEAL Program. Enrichment is provided by broadening content, understanding, experience and skills to a level appropriate to the students' zone of proximal development. Extension leads to in depth study and the integration and application of knowledge at a higher level. SEAL students begin to undertake VCE units at Year 10 in order to maximise flexibility, depth and breadth in their VCE program. Exemplary students may have an opportunity to complete a first year university subject in Year 12.

3. Implementation

Students selected into the SEAL Program are offered enrolment positions at the school in line with DET's enrolment policy. Once enrolled, students are selected into the SEAL program using Edutest results, prior reports, teacher referrals, work portfolios and interview performances.

The SEAL Program Coordinator will:

- Manage and coordinate the SEAL Program from Year 6 to Year 9
- Liaise with curriculum leaders to ensure a personalised accelerated learning program is delivered for SEAL students.
- Coordinate the testing and interview process for the SEAL Program.
- Manage and review the student information and selection process across Years 7-9.
- Collect and provide data analysis of outcomes for the SEAL Program.
- Facilitate professional development for teachers of SEAL students with the Professional Learning Leading Teacher.
- Be an active participant of The Academy of Accredited SEAL Schools (TAASS).

Students in SEALP will:

- Take responsibility for their own learning by actively engaging in all aspects of the SEAL Program.
- Develop good learning and study habits with the support of teachers and family.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that meets the school's expectations.
- Remain up to date with all classwork and be prepared to complete all learning tasks per the school's assessment schedule.
- Participate in extra-curricular activities
- Participate in academic interschool competitions (Mathematics, English and Science)
- Maintain suitable results across all subjects. This will be based on an individual basis and will be at the discretion of SEAL Program Coordinator and Principal Team.
- Students will be expected to demonstrate genuine effort in all aspects of their schooling.

Teachers in SEALP will:

- Set learning tasks and curriculum that is purposeful and meaningful, as well as reinforce students' learning and growth.
- Differentiate learning where appropriate to support all students at the point of readiness to learn. This includes stretching and extending.
- Provide timely and effective feedback to students, where and when appropriate.
- Take into consideration the workload of students so that they can manage their workload effectively, by having discussions with the students and other teachers.

Families in SEALP will:

- Encourage students to establish good study patterns through a study routine/planner.
- Support the study practices of SEALP students, without completing work for them, and acknowledge success as they complete it.
- Provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning through discussing their school work or ideas/topics being taught in class.

4. Specific procedures

Learning within the SEAL Program is as demanding as it is rewarding. Therefore, SEAL students must be motivated to learn, be well organised and able to make a genuine commitment to the program. Students eligible for entry into the SEAL Program at all year levels are those who achieve high academic results, or who display multiple characteristics associated with giftedness, such as:

- being mature for their age, with a good attention span
- having good problem solving and reasoning abilities;
- having the ability to persevere;
- having an extensive vocabulary and an excellent memory
- being an avid reader; and
- having a wide range of interests and being highly creative
- Places within the SEAL Program are limited, especially in Years 8 and 9.

How is the Program Structured?

Year 7 and 8

Students undertake an accelerated learning program in Maths, Science and Humanities

Students undertake an enhanced learning program in English and Language.

Students undertake the mainstream Year 7 and 8 curriculum program in the Arts, Technology and PE.

Student undertake a semester at least of instrumental music.

Year 9

Students undertake an accelerated learning program in Maths and Science.

Students undertake an enhanced learning program in English, Humanities, and Immersion.

Students undertake the mainstream Year 9 Elective Program.

Year 10

Students may commence VCE units of study.

Students will undertake an enhanced learning program in English and Maths.

Students will participate in the mainstream Year 10 Elective Program.

When a student reaches Year 10 and beyond, there are multiple pathways for the student to meet their individual learning needs. The extent of acceleration, and the subject areas accelerated are tailored to the performance and tertiary pathway of each student and determined through extensive course direction with the Senior Years Team.

All SEALP students are expected to maintain a high standard of work and effort. Therefore, each student's placement in SEALP is privileged, and is not guaranteed from year to year. If at risk, the SEALP Coordinator will discuss with all relevant parties and implement a range of support strategies in line with the school's Attendance and Progression policy.

5. Definitions & references

The Academy of Accredited SEALP Schools - <https://www.sealacademy.org.au/>
Edutest - <https://www.edutest.com.au/>
<https://bettereducation.com.au/AccelerationClass.aspx>

6. Consultative process

This is a school-based policy and therefore consultation was undertaken with SEALP teachers students and parents. This policy was tabled at the Principal Team meeting during term three for discussion and approval.

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2021
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	August 2024