

Alia College

VRQA 1981
DEST 16610
CRICOS 02448G

2019 Information Relating to the School

As a condition of the Commonwealth Government recurrent funding agreement the following information relating to the school is required to be made publicly available.

Contextual information about the school, including the characteristics of the student body.

Alia College is a secular, co-educational secondary school for students from Years 7 to 12. This means that, in general, students range from 12 to 18 years of age. Alia College encourages students to accept the right of all members of the school community to express their ideas, beliefs and feelings and to argue their own points of view, to respect the diversity of opinions and to be willing to learn from each other. The school actively promotes an awareness and understanding of cultural, social and personal values.

Alia College has no specific religious or philosophical affiliation and it encourages respect for the values of all members of the Alia community. Teachers and students are free to express and celebrate their personal beliefs as part of the community. The school welcomes a wide spectrum of students from diverse economic, social and cultural backgrounds. Alia students value highly their real responsibilities and opportunities to contribute to the design of their own learning environment. At Alia College students have a voice.

In meetings every day, time is specifically set aside for unstructured discussions, where a wide range of topics are raised. These meetings constitute a forum for students to discuss, question, and voice their opinions and approval or disapproval of almost anything that they choose, including aspects of the operations and management of the school.

Alia students are encouraged to be independent, creative, thinkers, supported by the school community in their personal development, self-expression and potential for leadership.

Teacher standards and qualifications as mandated in the relevant jurisdiction.

All teachers at Alia College are registered with the Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT).

Workforce composition, including indigenous composition.

The Alia College staff comprises male and female staff with a range of ages and varying loads from part-time to full-time. Alia College teachers are not required to inform the school of their indigenous heritage, religious beliefs or any individual affiliations.

Within the school community, there are people of different faiths and many who have no formal religious allegiance. Several have non-English-speaking backgrounds; some are vegetarians and there is at least one vegan. These diversities of belief and practice are a clear indication of the rich tapestry of the Alia College community.

Student attendance at school, including: rates of attendance for the whole school and for each year level.

Average rate of attendance for Years 7 to 10 is 68.30%

Average rate of attendance for Year 7 is 63.86%

Average rate of attendance for Year 8 is 72.19%

Average rate of attendance for Year 9 is 80.78%

Average rate of attendance for Year 10 is 56.37%

Almost all absences are parent-approved for such matters as illness, overseas trips, and so on.

A description and analysis of rates of student attendance for the year.

Students attendance rates this year have significantly declined compared to last year. The school has a small student population, less than 100, therefore low attendance from a few students can significantly impact the rate of student attendance data. During the year some students had prolonged periods of absence due to illness, which affects the attendance rates significantly.

A description of how non-attendance is managed by the school.

Alia College families are required to notify the school of an anticipated absence or to explain absence post facto. Communication with the school occurs by telephone, email or hand-delivered note. Absences are followed up by homeroom teachers, subject teachers or general staff.

All absences are recorded daily and systematically by the school. Parents and guardians receive an indication of attendance in the semester written reports from the school.

Alia College does not have a significant problem with unauthorised absences.

Senior secondary outcomes, including the percentage of Year 12 students:

- undertaking vocational or trade training
- attaining a Year 12 certificate or equivalent VET qualification.

In 2019, the Year 12 students at Alia College that undertook and intended to complete the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) successfully, attained their VCE qualification.

A description and analysis of student learning outcomes in state-wide tests and examinations for the current year (and for the last two years if the school has been established that long).

In some instances, analysis of the data is not possible to complete due to the small number of students undertaking the tests making the data statistically insignificant while also compromising the privacy of the students taking the tests.

2019 – Year 7

The small cohort had a range of results some significantly exceeding the national average and some falling outside the national minimum.

2018 — Year 7

All participating students scored above the national minimum in Grammar & Punctuation and Numeracy, while the majority of students scored above the national minimum in Reading and Spelling.

2017 — Year 7

All participating students scored above the national average in all areas of literacy and numeracy.

2019 – Year 9

All participating students scored above the national minimum in all areas of literacy and numeracy. Students scored above the national average in areas of Reading and Grammar & Punctuation, most students scored above the national average for Writing, Spelling and Numeracy. Comparing the result of the cohort of students in Year 9, 2019 to their results in Year 7, 2017, all students showed a higher average rate of improvement compared to the national average rate of improvement. The greatest improvements were generally in Grammar & Punctuation and Numeracy.

2018 — Year 9

At least half the students scored above the national average in all areas of literacy and numeracy. The majority of students scored above the national minimum in all areas of literacy and numeracy. Comparing the result of this cohort of students in Year 9, 2018 to their results in Year 7, 2016, all students showed a significant improvement in Reading and Writing. The majority showed a significant improvement in Reading and Numeracy.

2017 — Year 9

Most students scored above the national average in all areas of literacy and numeracy. The majority scored above the national minimum in Writing, Spelling, and Numeracy. Comparing the result of this cohort of students in Year 9, 2017 to their results in Year 7, 2015, all students showed a significant improvement in Writing and Spelling.

Parent, Student and Teacher satisfaction with Alia College

To an overwhelming extent, parents are very pleased with the improvements they observe when their children settle in to Alia College. These improvements are evident in their social life at school, in the area of personal development and in the quality and extent of their educational progress. The school continually receives plaudits from parents, expressing great satisfaction with their child's development at Alia College.

Students themselves are also overwhelmingly satisfied with the social environment and educational program at Alia College. An anonymous survey conducted revealed that over 90% of students found Alia to be a very harmonious, friendly and supportive community. An equally impressive number found the teachers at Alia College to be excellent, passionate about the subjects they teach, very competent and reliable. It also revealed a very high level of confidence in the teachers' abilities to recognise and support the development of students' potential.

Occasionally, an Alia College student will leave the school before or while attempting the VCE, in order to pursue an alternative educational course. Even in such cases, the departing student usually emphasises that the change is brought about by a decision to take a different direction and does not reflect dissatisfaction with Alia College.

The school receives many enquiries from teachers who are attracted to Alia College's description of its educational approach. As there is a high level of satisfaction expressed by current Alia teachers, the staff has generally remained stable with minimal staff turnover. Teachers identify with the quality of teacher professionalism, the respect for individual approaches and the school's democratic atmosphere. Teachers also welcome the freedom from the rigidities of much larger schools and the calibrated punishment regimes that are frequently employed by teachers at mainstream schools. The only dissatisfaction of teachers at Alia College concerns the relatively low pay rates.

Post-school Destinations

Commonly, students gain entry to the University of Melbourne, Monash University, La Trobe University, and Victoria University, as well as TAFEs.

This year, following the completion of VCE, Alia College students who elected to pursue tertiary studies were offered places for Bachelor Degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates at Australian College of the Arts, Monash University, Swinburne University of Technology, University of Melbourne, and Victoria University.

School's financial activities

