

# Alia College

## 2022 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. 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 highly value 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 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 vegans. 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.**

The school has a small student population, less than 100, therefore low attendance from a few students has significantly impacted the rate of student attendance. During the year some students had prolonged periods of absence due to illness, etc.

Average rates of attendance in 2022:

- Overall average from Years 7 to 10 is 65.07%
- Year 7 is 84.09%
- Year 8 is 74.64%
- Year 9 is 69.67%
- Year 10 is 52.50%

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

### **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 or email. 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 of Year 12 students:**

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

In 2022, the majority of graduating Year 12 students at Alia College completed their Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) successfully and attained their VCE qualification.

Some VCE students undertook a Vocational Education Training (VET) course in conjunction with their VCE.

### **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 national assessment program, making the data statistically insignificant while also compromising the privacy of the students taking the tests.

A new NAPLAN time series begins from 2023. Results from 2023 on cannot be directly compared to results from 2008 to 2022.

#### Year 7:

- 2022  
A small cohort participated in the National Assessment Program. All students who participated scored above the national average in all areas of testing (Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation, and Numeracy).
- 2021  
A small cohort participated in the national assessment program and of these students a majority scored above the national average in Reading and Numeracy.
- 2020  
Students did not complete state-wide tests due to the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore there are no outcomes to report.

#### Year 9:

- 2022  
All participating students who had been at the school for more than a year scored above the national average in all areas of testing (Reading, Writing, Grammar & Punctuation, and Numeracy).
- 2021  
All participating students scored above the national average in Reading and Spelling. The majority of students scored above the 90th percentile for Writing and Grammar & Punctuation. Comparing the results of the cohort of students in Year 9, 2021 to their results in Year 7, 2019, the average of the cohort results was higher relative to the national average of the respective year.
- 2020  
Students did not complete state-wide tests due to the COVID-19 pandemic, therefore there are no outcomes to report.

### **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 into Alia College. These improvements are evident in their social life at school, in their 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.

Sometimes, an Alia College student will leave the school before or while attempting the VCE, 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 enquiries from teachers who are attracted to Alia College’s description of its educational approach. The high level of satisfaction expressed by current Alia teachers, is reflected by the stability in staffing and 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 a range of tertiary institutions in a range of courses by applying through VTAC.

For 2023, following the completion of VCE in 2022, Alia College students who elected to pursue tertiary studies were offered places in Bachelor Degrees, Diplomas, and Certificates at Victoria University, RMIT University and The University of Melbourne.

### School’s financial activities

