



PRESHIL

THE MARGARET LYTTLE MEMORIAL SCHOOL

Towards 2023

Preshil, The Margaret Lyttle Memorial School

Proudly progressive



"As far as humanly possible the children are seen only as individuals, each one very different from every other one, with varying rates of growth and abilities."

Margaret E Lyttle, from "Courage"

THE JOURNEY

In 2012 Preshil embraced the challenge of envisioning its future in the form of a strategic plan.

We set up focus groups, canvassing the views of our teachers, students, parents, alumni and the wider Preshil community. We looked at how we can protect and maintain those aspects of the school that we treasure, while taking up the challenge of evolving those qualities we have stood for during the school's 80 years and encapsulated in the "Courage" document. We have agreed we need to be responsive to the demands and the possibilities of the future and genuinely adaptive and innovative in an ever-changing educational context.

CREATIVE AND INDEPENDENT THINKERS

At our core remains an unshakeable commitment to encouraging all children to progress at their own pace towards their own goals and to be respected as individuals in their own right. A commitment to our children to be nurtured and challenged in an atmosphere that inspires creativity and independent thinking in all areas of life and does not overtly or subtly, use competition or punishment to motivate through the fear of failure. Preshil will remain a school that puts kindness, compassion and social relationships at the centre of its operations.

Based on these principles, our task was to articulate the strategy to carry us into this future.



A TEN YEAR PLAN - TO 2023

We have a responsibility to plan for our current cohort. The children who will graduate in 2023 are already our six and seven year olds, so our timeline is, in fact, anchored by the consideration of how our plans will impact on each stage of our students' education. The quality of our future staff, program development, resources and capital works all depend on what we do today.

In 2023 the education offered by Preshil will continue to be inspired by the educational philosophy developed by Greta R Lyttle and her niece Margaret E Lyttle, resisting standardisation and regimentation, competitive assessments and the marginalisation of individuality.

Preshil will:

- be the leading progressive school in Australia;
- continue to protect children's rights: their right to play, to choose and to express themselves;
- continue to foster learning and intellectual effort, supporting every student to challenge themselves and take pride in their academic achievements;
- continue to foster accountability, self-reliance and the independence to think critically, to question deeply and the courage to speak out;
- continue to build awareness of the world and a commitment to socially responsible action; and
- actively support our staff of exceptional educators.



PRESHIL WILL REMAIN A SMALL, SOCIALLY COHESIVE SCHOOL

Preshil is committed to remaining a small school with an ideal enrolment capped at 550 students on two sites, Arlington Junior School and Blackhall Kalimna Senior School; a small school with the emphasis on community and the nurturing of strong social relationships. This is a deliberate strategy to maintain a low student/teacher ratio, that allows for team teaching, collaborative learning, multi-aged groupings and strong support for individual students.

CONTINUE TO INSPIRE INDIVIDUALS - THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

Preshil will introduce a secondary school program based on the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (MYP) for Years Seven to Ten from 2014. This program is a perfect fit for Preshil to continue its progressive approach in a dynamic and internationally supported network of schools.

Building on our unique curriculum style at Arlington, which is a developmental program underpinned by a child-centred inquiry and project-based approach, the International Baccalaureate MYP allows for a more structured and challenging curriculum as we support all our students who are currently in the senior school to explore their own pathway to studies in the VCE.

The Middle Years Program draws upon a world-leading curriculum that encourages students to become active, compassionate and life-long learners. Importantly, it caters for all learning styles. It is an internationally recognised course across 144 countries.

This Middle Years Program will also allow us to lay the foundation for the introduction of the Diploma and Certificate courses of the IB in 2018. Until this time our teachers will continue their absolute commitment to their VCE students.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma is a globally recognised qualification which emphasises personal interest and research and genuine criteria based assessment, in place of a limited system of ranking students against each other.

"We love it here - we never feel patronised, we respect each other, we have passionate teachers who engage us and who are great at accommodating individual needs."

Senior student - Strategic planning focus group 2012

OUR INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE TIMELINE

A carefully managed and considered timeline for the transition is central to our Strategic Plan.

- 2013 - Preparation, professional development and recruitment of an MYP Coordinator.
- 2014 - Orientation and commencement of MYP structures introduced in the Years 7 to 10 curriculum.
- 2015 - Review and extension of MYP implementation.
- 2016 - MYP structure fully implemented and recruitment of IB Diploma Coordinator.
- 2017 - Preparation and professional development for IB Diploma.
- 2018 - Introduction of IB for Year 11 catering for all learning styles and needs.
- 2019 - Completion of transition to the IB across the senior school.



"We can be ourselves here and we don't have to be perfect. We are allowed to have our own opinions."

Junior student - Strategic planning focus group 2012

IMAGINATIVE AND INSPIRING FACILITIES

A central part of Preshil's Strategic Plan is to comprehensively and sensitively improve and conserve the significant buildings for which we are responsible.

We will complete such refurbishment and remodelling necessary to safeguard their sustainability and ensure our students can enjoy truly fit-for-purpose facilities. Planning will focus on flexibility and thoughtful repurposing, respecting the values represented by the modesty and inclusiveness of spaces across the school and providing purpose-built spaces to accommodate an active student voice, performances and exhibitions.

The Arlington Conservation Management Plan is integrated into our strategy to ensure the longevity of its heritage significance and the architectural integrity of the Kevin Borland buildings.

Wholly integrated and enabled IT resources are a fundamental part of our plan, as are the upgrading and maintenance of our gardens and grounds.

Preshil's active Foundation, the school's Building Fund and a fully developed fundraising strategy will all focus on the completion of this capital works plan.



RESPONSIBLE SUSTAINABILITY

Preshil will build and refine our operational structures and processes, including our human resources, governance and financial management, to ensure that our vision is secure, sustainable and focused on achieving our long term goals.



"Preshil...is living proof that a school need not be a prison for students' minds and bodies but a place of liberation, a place that sets them free."

Geoff Maslen, The Age 1992

"Creativity is possible in every discipline and should be promoted throughout the whole of education."

Sir Ken Robinson 2011

WE ARE COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT:

Preshil will remain a K-12, progressive school in the Preshil tradition. By 2023 the school will have a capped enrolment of 550 students across two campuses and all classes will have low student / teacher ratios. Preshil will offer an IB program at the Senior School and we will have completed a capital works program that ensures the school has fit-for-purpose and refurbished facilities. Our cash reserves will be no more than is required to secure our financial sustainability.

"Creativity is not an indulgence that we need to have a bit of as well as all the hard work. Creativity is the centre of it - it is the development of mind."

Margaret E Lyttle

Children are magic

Margaret E Lyttle

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