

Black Mountain School
Learning Growing Achieving

COMPASS

BUILDING STRONG SECONDARY
EDUCATION THROUGH SPECIALISED
SERVICES



Black Mountain School
48 Dryandra St O'Connor ACT 2602

p: 02 6205 6377
f: 02 6205 6388
e: info@bms.act.edu.au
w: www.bms.act.edu.au

Facilities at BMS

With ICT and iDevices in every classroom, Art studio (industrial and aesthetic), Gymnasium with ICT connectivity, Horticulture facility and landscaped gardens, Sustainability Skills Centre, active and passive recreation Areas, our students are provided with an optimal learning environment. With our community partners we provide a customised range of programs that promote health, recreation, family support and educational opportunities. An onsite afterschool care and vacation program is available.

Pastoral Care at BMS

Our pastoral care program focuses on developing the social and emotional capabilities that all young people need to acquire in order to be successful in school, experience wellbeing, and have positive relationships including making contributions to others and the community. Black Mountain School is the first specialist school in Australia to be Mind Matters accredited. Mind Matters uses a whole school approach to enhance the development of environments where young people feel safe, valued, engaged and purposeful. It also develops the social and emotional skills required to meet life's challenges.

OUR
STUDENTS
MATTER

OUR
STAFF
MATTER

AT BLACK MOUNTAIN,
EVERYONE
MATTERS

OUR
PARTNERSHIPS
MATTER

Interested in your child
attending Black Mountain School?

Why not register your interest
below with us?

email: info@bms.act.edu.au

post: 48 Dryandra St O'Connor, 2602.

Or come and see us.

Family Name:

Given Names:

Contact Number:

Email:

I am interested in: (select all that apply)

- Having a tour of BMS
- Speaking with a member of school executive
- Add me to the school mailing list
- Notify me when special events are on
- I would like to attend an information session

Registering my child to attend Black Mountain School

Child's Name: Date of Birth:

As you consider the placement of your child we invite your further questions
and are happy to organise follow-up visits to see our school in action.

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INTRODUCING BLACK MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

BMS has an outstanding parent satisfaction rating, with 96% of parents indicating that BMS has high expectations in all that it does. This same score was achieved for parent satisfaction with student education at BMS.



BMS has been delivering tailored and specialised education for students for 60 years.

What is Compass?

Compass is specifically designed and tailored for students with a mild intellectual disability. The general capabilities of the Australian curriculum are the pillars of Compass. The capabilities incorporate the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that will assist students to live and work successfully in the twenty-first century.

What stands Compass apart?

Compass combines quality teaching tailored for young people with a disability with the Australian Curriculum. We focus on the educational, social and emotional capabilities that all young people need for success at school, home and in the community.

It is this holistic approach to education that led to BMS being the first specialist school in Australia to be accredited as a Mind Matters School. This means our programs are underpinned by a whole-school approach to enhance the development of environments where young people feel safe, valued, engaged and purposeful. We have developed leading programs to foster social and emotional skills and have a team dedicated to student wellbeing. BMS offers diverse programs to excite, engage and educate, including DanceFest, interschool sports days, camps and community programs.

Why is Black Mountain School (BMS) the best option for my child?

We are an innovative and dynamic school that is highly regarded for our educational programs, outstanding facilities and highly skilled staff. The school improves outcomes for students through a curriculum that focusses on the learning of academic, technological and social skills.

The facilities and resources at BMS create an optimal learning environment. Onsite facilities include: ICT and iDevices in every classroom, art studio (industrial and aesthetic), multi-purpose gymnasium, horticulture facility and landscaped gardens, Sustainability Skills Centre, active and passive recreation areas that provide opportunities for fitness, cooperative games and fun.

How will BMS meet the diverse needs of my child?

The number one reason to send your child to BMS is the outstanding educational outcomes your child will achieve. We are part of the North Canberra Schools' Network and enjoy rich partnerships with local schools including Campbell High, Lyneham High and Dickson College. With our community partners we provide a customised range of programs that promote health, recreation, family support and diverse educational opportunities. An onsite after-school care and vacation program is available. BMS provides a safe and supportive learning environment. Our staff and students live the agreed values of respect, team work, feeling valued and positive challenges. We provide a safe, happy and stimulating learning environment that challenges each of our students.

How will my child succeed academically at BMS?

With specialised teachers, facilities and small classes, Compass delivers personalised academic and social learning.

Meeting the standards of the Australian Curriculum, your child will be challenged, enriched and guided by quality teaching to succeed in their literacy and numeracy focussed program. Authentic and enquiry based learning underpin student engagement with the curriculum as they acquire and apply their skills. We report student progress benchmarked against the ongoing targets set by the Australian Curriculum as your child develops capability in literacy and numeracy.

CURRICULUM



Curriculum

The general capabilities of the Australian curriculum are the pillars of the Compass program. They encompass the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that, together with curriculum content in each learning area and the cross-curriculum priorities, will assist students to live and work successfully in the twenty-first century. It is essential for young people with a disability to have a strong sense of identity and wellbeing, feel connected with and contribute to their world, and be confident and involved learners and effective communicators.

The Australian Curriculum sets out the core knowledge, understanding, skills and general capabilities important for all students. It describes the learning entitlement of students as a foundation for their future learning, growth and active participation in the community. It makes clear what all young Australians should learn as they progress through schooling. It is the foundation for the Black Mountain School Compass Program.

GENERAL CAPABILITIES IN THE AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM



1. Literacy

Students become literate as they develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions to interpret and use language confidently for learning and communicating in and out of school and for participating effectively in society. Literacy involves students in listening to, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating oral, print, visual and digital texts, and using and modifying language for different purposes in a range of contexts.

2. Numeracy

Students become numerate as they develop the knowledge and skills to use mathematics confidently across other learning areas at school and in their lives more broadly. Numeracy involves students in recognising and understanding the role of mathematics in the world and having the dispositions and capacities to use mathematical knowledge and skills purposefully.

3. Information and communication technology (ICT) capability

Students develop ICT capability as they learn to use ICT effectively and appropriately to access, create and communicate information and ideas, solve problems and work collaboratively in all learning areas at school, and in their lives beyond school. The capability involves students in learning to make the most of the digital technologies available to them, adapting to new ways of doing things as technologies evolve and limiting the risks to themselves and others in a digital environment.

4. Critical and creative thinking

Students develop capability in critical and creative thinking as they learn to generate and evaluate knowledge, clarify concepts and ideas, seek possibilities, consider alternatives and solve problems. Critical and creative thinking are integral to activities that require students to think broadly and deeply using skills, behaviours and dispositions such as reason, logic, resourcefulness, imagination and innovation in all learning areas at school and in their lives beyond school.

5. Personal and social capability

Students develop personal and social capability as they learn to understand themselves and others, and manage their relationships, lives, work and learning more effectively. The capability involves students in a range of practices including recognising and regulating emotions, developing empathy for others and understanding relationships, establishing and building positive relationships, making responsible decisions, working effectively in teams, handling challenging situations constructively and developing leadership skills.

6. Ethical understanding

Students develop ethical understanding as they identify and investigate the nature of ethical concepts, values and character traits, and understand how reasoning can assist ethical judgment. Ethical understanding involves students in building a strong personal and socially oriented ethical outlook that helps them to manage context, conflict and uncertainty, and to develop an awareness of the influence that their values and behaviour have on others.

7. Intercultural understanding

Students develop intercultural understanding as they learn to value their own cultures, languages and beliefs, and those of others. They come to understand how personal, group and national identities are shaped, and the variable and changing nature of culture. The capability involves students in learning about and engaging with diverse cultures in ways that recognise commonalities and differences, create connections with others and cultivate mutual respect.