

# Maroon Outdoor Education Centre



## Curriculum Framework

## Context

Maroon Outdoor Education Centre is a Queensland Government education facility which specialises in providing education services to schools. Maroon OEC conducts week-long residential learning programs for students focusing on social and emotional learning. Learning in the outdoors provides unique and real learning experiences in social and emotional learning.

In Outdoor Education, students use outdoor experiences to learn about themselves, each other and their environment. They explore their relationship with the world around them, their responsibilities and their future. These students make generalisations, they test the social conventions of their community and they question the sustainability of human activity on the environment. They seek peer group acceptance, but there is a gradual increase in the importance of individual friendships. They desire autonomy and independence. They are more able to appreciate the views and rights of others and moral awareness and beliefs about social justice begin to emerge. The skills students learn at Maroon OEC are found in General Capabilities of the Australian Curriculum.

In the Australian Curriculum the General Capabilities play a significant role in realising the goals set out in the *Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians* (MCEETYA 2008) – which describes individuals who can manage their own wellbeing, relate well to others, make informed decisions about their lives, become citizens who behave with ethical integrity, relate to and communicate across cultures, work for the common good and act with responsibility at local, regional and global levels.

## Social and emotional learning

Social and emotional learning is at the core of learning at Maroon OEC. Various terms are used to describe social and emotional learning including personal and social development, emotional literacy, emotional intelligence, social and emotional competence and social, emotional and behavioural skills.

Social and emotional learning is a process for helping students develop the knowledge, understandings and skills that support learning, positive behaviour and constructive social relationships. Social and emotional learning is an approach that teaches students to recognise, regulate and express the social and emotional aspects of their lives so they can operate successfully in the world and manage life tasks.

To operate successfully in the social world, students must build knowledge and understanding of their identity, how relationships are developed and the impact of social contexts on their decision making and behaviour.

The Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning has identified five core social and emotional competency areas:

- **Self-awareness:** identifying and recognising emotions; recognising personal interests and strengths; maintaining a well-grounded sense of self-confidence
- **Self-management:** regulating emotions to handle stress, control impulses, and motivating oneself to persevere in overcoming obstacles; setting and monitoring progress toward the achievement of personal and academic goals; expressing emotions appropriately
- **Social awareness:** being able to take the perspective of and empathise with others; recognising and appreciating individual and group similarities and differences
- **Relationship skills:** establishing and maintaining healthy and rewarding relationships based on cooperation and resistance to inappropriate social pressure; preventing, managing, and constructively resolving interpersonal conflict; seeking help when needed
- **Responsible decision-making:** making decisions based on a consideration of all relevant factors, including applicable ethical standards, safety concerns, and social norms; the likely consequences of taking alternative courses of action; evaluation and reflection.

## Core Learnings

The Maroon Outdoor Education Centre core learnings align specifically with the Australian Curriculum's General Capabilities of Personal and Social Capability and the Critical and Creative Thinking Capability.

Maroon Outdoor Education Centre has four Core Learnings:

- Teamwork
- Resilience
- Leadership
- Connections

### Teamwork

Teamwork is working collaboratively with a group of people in order to achieve a common goal.

#### Skills of an Effective Team Member

	Communication	Participation	Cooperation	Respect
<b>Good</b>	I listen to others	I focus on the team goals	I follow directions	I allow others to learn
<b>Great</b>	I deliver clear messages	I complete my tasks	I negotiate and offer help	I consider the effect of my actions
<b>Awesome</b>	I acknowledge the ideas of others	I reflect on my personal achievements	I consider the needs of others	I accept the diversity and strengths of others

#### Characteristics of an Effective Team

	Communication	Participation	Cooperation	Respect
<b>Good</b>	We take turns to speak	We work hard to achieve our goals	We help each other	We are reliable
<b>Great</b>	We encourage everyone to be involved in discussions	We negotiate our roles and responsibilities	We make decisions together	We build positive, trusting relationships
<b>Awesome</b>	We have discussions with a clear outcome	We reflect on our involvement to improve	We develop strategies to support our team	We use our strengths and acknowledge our weaknesses

## Resilience

Resilience is the ability to bounce back after a set-back.

Characteristics of a resilient person:

	Self Esteem	Support	Strengths	Skills
<b>Good</b>	I believe that I am good at some things.	I have people that encourage me	I am free to make choices	I can communicate with others
<b>Great</b>	The things that I am good at are important to me.	I have people who will help me	I am self-motivated	I can solve problems
<b>Awesome</b>	I am confident in who I am	I have people I trust	I am hopeful about my future	I can reflect on who I am

## Leadership

Leadership means making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Characteristics of a good leader:

	Responsible	Self-Confident	Decisive	Resourceful
<b>Good</b>	I am organised	I know my strengths and weaknesses	I will make a decision	I include all team members
<b>Great</b>	I am dependable and manage time well	I have the courage to take control	I understand how to solve problems	I use the skills and knowledge of the team
<b>Awesome</b>	I will be accountable	I am willing to take risks	I understand how to set goals	I encourage initiative and innovation

## Connection

Our biggest obligation is to connect with all things and care for ourselves, each other and the environment.

Characteristics of being connected:

	Lore	Love	Look, Listen, Learn	Lead
<b>Self</b>	I know my story	I care for myself	I look and listen to learn about myself	I strive to be the best I can be
<b>Others</b>	I know the story of others	I care for others	I look and listen to learn about others	I help others to be the best they can be
<b>Country</b>	I know the stories of my country	I care for my country	I look and listen to learn about my country	I strive to keep my country at its best