



Whitebridge High School

Procedures Curriculum



Education &
Communities

Public Schools NSW

Whitebridge High School aims to offer students the best of all educational opportunities.

We are committed to broad, balanced and relevant curriculum which rivals the best that technology, selective and specialist schools can offer whilst at the same time continuing to offer the very best features of a local comprehensive secondary school.

The curriculum will offer a wide and varied range of subjects that will cater for student's vocational and academic aspirations, interests and needs and foster the development of individual talents. Our curriculum will challenge and equip our students with the skills to interact successfully in a rapidly changing society.

Whitebridge High School will continue to develop a spirit of cooperation between teachers, students and the wider community which will ensure:

- quality educational programs which aim to achieve excellence and equity;
- the highest competence in teaching and learning, ranging from the basic skills of literacy and numeracy to academic extension;
- a caring environment which nurtures the qualities of self discipline, responsible and courteous behaviour, pastoral care and student interest activities;

- a provision of individual extension programs for gifted and talented students; and
- the provision of individual remedial programs for students with learning difficulties

Curriculum Timetable

All lessons are 63 minutes in length and students will have a mixture of single and double periods. The number of periods a student will have for each subject will vary depending on the subject and the year of study. The school timetable operates on a two week cycle.

Junior students will have five periods per day on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday (A Weeks) and Friday.

On Tuesday they will have three periods plus sport and on Thursday (B Weeks) they will have four periods.

Junior students will begin their school day at 8.55am with roll call followed by their first period at 9.05 a.m. Their school day will end at 3.20pm except on Week B Thursdays when the day will end at 2.17pm.

Senior students in year 11 and 12 will operate on a flexible timetable. The earliest lessons will begin at 7.30 am and the last lessons of the school day may not finish until 6.00pm. Whilst most senior subjects are offered at Whitebridge High School students will also have the option to study at a variety of TAFE colleges. Senior students are expected to be present at

school for their chosen subjects. They are expected to sign on at school for their first class of the day and not leave the school grounds until they have completed their last scheduled class for the day. Students are expected to stay at school and study in the areas set aside for them.

STRUCTURE

The Whitebridge High school curriculum is divided into 3 stages:

Stage Four (Year 7 and 8)

Stage Five (Year 9 and 10)

Stage Six (Year 11 and 12)

Stage 4

Year 7

Students will follow the same course in year 7. They will study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History or Geography
- Art or Music
- Languages – Japanese or Mandarin
- Technology
- PD/Health/PE
- Sport

There will be two AA classes offering extension work. All other classes will be parallel.

Students in the two AA classes will be selected on the following criteria;

- Basic Skills Test results;
- primary school reports;
- external testing conducted at either feeder primary schools or at Whitebridge High School on a designated day.

Students in the other parallel year 7 classes will be placed in classes that are deemed to be the most suitable based on meetings with primary school teaching and executive staff and school counsellors.

Year 7 students will remain in the same class for all subjects. They will have designated home rooms and a designated home room teacher. Year 7 students will have one period of student support in which the home room teacher will work with them to develop social skills and values of respect, responsibility and leadership in order to aid their transition to secondary school

Towards the end of the first semester year 7 students will be reassessed based on their progress and if it is considered to be in the student's best interest they will be placed into another class.

Year 8

In year 8 all students must study:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History or Geography
- PD/Health/PE
- Art or Music
- Technology

Elective Choice

In addition they will also choose one additional elective subject. This elective subject will be chosen during semester two of year 7. Students may choose from any of the subjects

outlined in the Year 8 program of studies booklet available from:

<https://web2.whitebridge-schools.nsw.edu.au/internet/pos.html>

Subject availability will be based on student interest and school resources.

There can be no guarantee that students will be placed in their first subject choice.

Students must complete elective subject choices by a nominated date in semester two in year 7.

In the first three weeks of term one year 8 students may also change their subject providing that they follow correct procedure.

Procedure for Elective Subject change

- Any changes must take place in the first three weeks of Term one. After Week 3 no further changes will take place for the rest of the year.
- Students wishing to change elective choice must see the Deputy Principal and get the Change of Subject form.
- Students must identify the elective they wish to change and the Deputy Principal will advise if such a change is possible (based on subject numbers and resource considerations)
- Students must then obtain the signature of the Head Teacher in the subject they wish to drop and the signature of the Head Teacher in the subject they wish to join plus any necessary class information.
- When the Change of Subject form is completed it must be returned to the Deputy Principal who will note it and pass it on to D1 and the Head Teacher Administration so that the changes may be made.

Stage 5

Stage 5 is a two year course. There are two categories of subject in Stage 5 - the Core and Elective subjects. Students at Whitebridge High School must study subjects in both categories to fulfil the requirements of the Board of Studies.

In particular circumstances, identified students may undertake a Life Skills program as part of a special program

of studies in specifically identified subjects. Such a course will only be available after counsellor testing and negotiations with the Board of Studies Coordinator, the Welfare Head Teacher, the counsellor, the student and the student's parent or guardian in order to determine the most appropriate course for the individual student.

Year 9

Year 9 students will complete the following core subjects and must choose two of the elective subjects.

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Geography
- PD/Health/PE
- Sport

Elective Subjects

Students must pick two elective subjects which they will study for two years, the equivalent of 200 hours of study. Students may choose from any of the subjects outlined in the Year 9 and 10 program of studies booklet available from:

<https://web2.whitebridge-schools.nsw.edu.au/internet/pos.html>

Elective subject choices will be made in semester two of year 8 and must be completed by a nominated date.

Subject availability will be based on student interest and school resources. There can be no guarantee that students will be offered their first choice of elective subject

Students will be given the opportunity to change elective choices in the first three weeks of year 9 providing that they follow correct Change of Subject procedures. There will be no further subject changes after week three.

Procedure for Elective Subject Change

- Any changes must take place in the first three weeks of Term one. After Week 3 no further changes

will take place for the rest of the year.

- Students wishing to change elective choice must see the Deputy Principal and get the Change of Subject form.
- Students must identify the elective line they wish to change (X or Y) and the Deputy Principal will advise if such a change is possible (based on subject numbers and resource considerations)
- Students must then obtain the signature of the Head Teacher in the subject they wish to drop and the signature of the Head Teacher in the subject they wish to change to plus any necessary class information.
- When the Change of Subject form is completed it must be returned to the Deputy Principal who will note it and pass it on to D1 and the Head Teacher Administration so that the changes may be made.

Year 10

In general students are expected to continue their elective choices into year 10. However in exceptional cases students may change their elective and opt to complete two 100 hour courses instead of one 200 hour course.

If students wish to do this they must follow the correct process

- Meet with the Board of Studies coordinator to discuss the possibility of changing electives. They will need to provide sound educational reasons to justify why the change would be desirable.
- If the Board of Studies Coordinator approves the change of subject they will then need to seek approval for the change with the Head Teacher of the subject that they wish to change to.
- If this is approved they then need to see the Deputy Principal and obtain a Change of Subject form and follow correct procedures. (See below)
- Having completed the Change of Subject form they must then inform the Board of Studies Coordinator

that the change has taken place so that the Board of Studies records can be adjusted.

Procedure for Elective Subject Change

- Any changes must take place in the first three weeks of term one. After week 3 no further changes will take place for the rest of the year.
- Students wishing to change elective choice must see the Deputy Principal and get the Change of Subject form.
- Students must identify the elective line they wish to change (X or Y) and the Deputy Principal will advise if such a change is possible (based on subject numbers and resource considerations)
- Students must then obtain the signature of the Head Teacher in the subject they wish to drop and the signature of the Head Teacher in the subject they wish to change to plus any necessary class information.
- When the Change of Subject form is completed it must be returned to the Deputy Principal – Curriculum who will note it and pass it on to D1 and the Head Teacher Administration so that the changes may be made.

Stage 6

Stage 6 is divided into two courses, the Preliminary Certificate and the Higher School Certificate (HSC). The Preliminary Certificate is a prerequisite for the Higher School Certificate. The majority of students are expected to complete their Preliminary Certificate in year 11 and their Higher School Certificate in year 12. To gain a Higher School Certificate, students must complete a minimum of 22 units of study- 12 units in the Preliminary course and 10 units in the Higher School Certificate course.

The units studied MUST include:

- at least 6 units from board developed courses including at least 2 units in English
- at least three courses of 2 units value or greater;
- at least four subjects; and

- no more than 6 units of science courses.

All courses offered for study are of one or two unit values.

A 2 unit course has a value of 100 marks. It is the equivalent of 4 hours per week or 120 hours per year.

Extension courses are available in a number of subjects. They are equal to 1 additional unit per subject.

In the Higher School Certificate Year Maths and English also offer Extension 2 courses which allow a student to complete 4 units of either subject.

Students are also given the option of gaining a Higher School Certificate through Pathways which allows them to complete the Higher School Certificate over a longer period of time. Students who wish to do Pathways must discuss and negotiate this with the Board of Studies Coordinator before they begin their Stage 6 program of studies.

Year 11 (Preliminary Certificate)

Students must choose a minimum of 12 units including English. The subject choices will be completed in Semester two of year 10. Unless students have opted to do Pathways they must select a minimum of 12 units. This is usually made up of six 2 unit subjects but students can also select Extension Mathematics and /or Extension English valued at 1 unit each.

English is a Board Developed course and is compulsory. Students may choose from several English courses with various levels of academic challenge.

All other subject choices are optional and students can choose from three types of courses:

- **Board Courses (BDC)** – These courses have syllabi developed by the Board of Studies giving course objectives, structure, content and outcomes plus specific course and assessment requirements. These courses are examined externally in the state wide Higher School Certificate Examination and count towards the calculation of the Universities Admission Index (UAI).
- **Developed Courses (BDC)** – These courses have syllabi developed by the Board of Studies giving course objectives, structure, content and outcomes plus specific course and assessment requirements. These courses are examined externally in the state wide Higher School Certificate Examination and count towards the calculation of the Universities Admission Index (UAI).

- **Board Endorsed Courses (BEC)**
– These courses do not have an external examination. They count towards the Higher School Certificate but do not count towards the calculation for the UAI.
- **Vocational Education and Training Courses (VET)** – These courses are offered as part of the Higher School Certificate and are either Board Developed or Board Endorsed courses. They enable students to gain both HSC qualifications and national accreditation with industry and the workplace under the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). These courses have a specific workplace component. These courses can be delivered by the school or by TAFE or other providers.
- **Life Skills Courses as part of a Special Program of Study.** Students accessing this program will, in general, need to have completed at least four generic Life Skills courses within a special program of study in Stage 5. Participation in Stage 6 Life Skills will be based upon an individual transition planning process which will occur in both the Preliminary and HSC years. Life Skills courses will have a Board Developed status and can be used in place of other Board Developed Courses to meet the requirements for the award of a Higher School Certificate . Each Life Skills courses comprises of a 2 unit Preliminary course and a 2 unit HSC course equalling 120 indicative hours in each course.

Course offered for study in Stage 6

Students may choose from any of the subjects outlined in the Year 11 and 12 program of studies booklet available from:

<https://web2.whitebridge-schools.nsw.edu.au/internet/pos.html>

Further Information

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