



Most classes, particularly in the Middle, Junior Secondary and Senior sectors of the school, have a Community Based Learning Program. This is a very supportive learning environment because it is enjoyable, engaging and meaningful.

This practical method of teaching is used so that students are able to apply the skills learned in the classroom to a real world context. When students practise these skills in the community, it allows them to be as efficient as possible in their adult life.

Students learn literacy, numeracy, communication, social and behavioural skills in the classroom and school context under direct and explicit instruction from the school staff. For the learning to be meaningful and beneficial in their lives, it needs to be put into real life or life like contexts at school and then generalised and implemented into community settings.

Class teachers take their class out of the school, usually using school buses, and as students mature and move into the more senior classes, public transport may be used.

Supportive contexts in the community may include:

- Shopping at local shopping centres,
- borrowing books from the library,
- accessing work environments,
- visiting lifestyle programs as a post school option,
- swimming lessons,
- sporting activities
- cultural activities.

While a program or context may seem to have a singular purpose eg shopping for food for a cooking program, it will always have multiple goals which may include communicating effectively, behaving appropriately in a public place, interacting socially with a range of people and practicing the correct social behaviours, using numeracy skills they have learned in class, and travelling and moving safely in the community.

Students with disabilities must learn how to put their learning into practice in real world community settings.

This is another of the key teaching strategies used by our teachers to foster supportive learning environments.