



# 2025 Annual Report



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## 2025 AT A GLANCE

# 41

STUDENTS ENROLLED  
IN 2025

An array of engaging  
excursions and incursions  
schoolwide.

RETENTION  
RATE

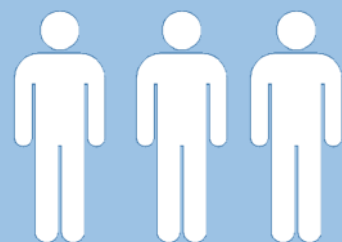
Prep - Year 7

# 91%

**New Science Lab built!**

# 100%

TEACHERS ENGAGED IN  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



**New Reading Program In**

# SCHOOL PROFILE

Melbourne Applied Scholastics School, also known as Mooroolbark Grammar, is an independent, non-denominational, co-educational primary school in Mooroolbark that also offers Year 7.

With caring teachers that love their jobs and small class sizes that ensure personal attention, children move confidently through our full and comprehensive curriculum which includes a strong focus on developing independent learning skills and becoming an excellent reader. Our school, which was registered in 1990, is located on a quiet setting on six acres of land.

Mooroolbark Grammar grew out of the shared ideas of a group of parents who were unhappy with the quality of education at their local schools. They wanted a smaller school that offered a more personal and caring approach to education ensuring no child was left behind. They wanted a school that taught their children not only how to learn but how to evaluate and reason with the information they were given. They wanted their children to be in a group who shared and supported a moral code which encouraged good manners and integrity. They wanted an environment that challenged their children to try, investigate and evaluate new things. And above all else, they wanted their children to find enjoyment in learning. From this list of "wants" Mooroolbark Grammar School was formed.

## Location

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Telephone:	+61 3 9727 3032
Email:	<a href="mailto:andrea@mooroolbarkgrammar.vic.edu.au">andrea@mooroolbarkgrammar.vic.edu.au</a>
Website	<a href="https://www.mooroolbarkgrammar.com.au">https://www.mooroolbarkgrammar.com.au</a>

## SCHOOL DETAILS

School Sector:	Independent
Total Enrolments:	41
Year Levels Offered:	<u>Prep to Year 6</u> <u>Year 7</u>
Co-Educational:	Prep to Year 7

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE STUDENT BODY

Mooroolbark Grammar offers co-education from Prep to Year 7.

Our students are a proud and friendly community of confident, well-educated girls and boys.

Enrolled	41
Prep	7
Grade 1	7
Grade 2	1
Grade 3	2
Grade 4	4
Grade 5	7
Grade 6	10
Year 7	3

## DISTINCTIVE CURRICULUM OFFERINGS

The founding parents wanted the school to be built around a core educational philosophy; one that they felt matched their values and ideas about education. They identified the Applied Scholastics educational program as the one that most closely matched their vision.

Applied Scholastics International was founded in 1972 by a group of concerned teachers who were searching for a way to resolve their problems with student learning and classroom management. They discovered the *Study Technology*—a system of educational tools developed by American author and educator L. Ron Hubbard. So effective was this methodology that these professionals then decided to start an organization dedicated to sharing it with others. The result was Applied Scholastics. Today, over 50 years later, Applied Scholastics International makes available L. Ron Hubbard's educational technology on a global scale. It functions through more than 760 affiliates to the benefit of some 100,000 educators and 28 million students.

For over 30 years Mooroolbark Grammar has found the Applied Scholastics method to have proved itself beyond question. With caring, dedicated teachers and class sizes small enough to ensure personal attention, children move through the school and become graduates who are confident, competent, and happy young people who retain their enthusiasm for learning; they then move on to secondary school ready to embrace the next stage of their learning journey.

### The Power of Words

What happens when you use words that others can't understand?



What happens when you teach a very interesting subject but find your students just aren't 'with you'?

You get a disconnection – a disengagement, a student who is no longer willing to learn.

Words have the power to do this.

Over the centuries, language has developed, changed and adapted to new circumstances, new technologies. Language is rich with history and inspires futures. Writers combine words to make our world seem brilliant or flawed. Advertisers use words to interest and arrest our attention. Words create images and concepts that allow us to understand each other.

At Mooroolbark Grammar we recognize this as a *key* factor in teaching a subject.

Using the Applied Scholastics Methods, our teachers are in the unique position to know why a student is no longer interested in a subject. We know *how* to get their understanding and that it is *vital* to do so. We see that a student who cannot apply what he is learning needs to have directed help that is specialized in finding the words or symbols that he doesn't know.

## **Reading**

In the last couple of years, a significant amount of work was done to establish a fully functional reading program that started in Prep and worked through the entire school. This program had to be one that not only got children reading but increased their vocabulary on a rapid basis. We saw this as a key to their future education and its alignment with other subjects. But we took this program one step further. In addition to reading, we ensured that the books chosen were ones that not only gave pleasure to the students to read but also taught them valuable lessons and educated them on the world around them. The books chosen cover, fiction, history, historical fiction, non-fiction and biographies. This gives the children the opportunity to expand their understanding of the world around them.

This program is now fully in throughout the entire school showing some amazing results.

## **A Strong Sense of Integrity is Vital:**

In a world filled with television, internet, music videos, electronic games, etc., young people are bombarded with conflicting messages from a very young age. It's easy to see how young people can make poor choices. It is very important therefore, to work at building strong core values as early as possible.

As a school that is inclusive of all denominations and cultures, we encourage the development of such virtues as kindness, tolerance, and respect, as well as persistence, integrity and understanding. Whilst not promoting a particular religious philosophy, Mooroolbark Grammar encourages recognition of our spiritual nature.

To achieve the above, Mooroolbark Grammar students are taught the principles based on the booklet "How to Make Good Choices," which is a non-religious moral code based wholly on common sense. It covers 21 precepts (rules of behavior) such as "Honor and Help Your Parents", "Be Worthy of Trust", "Set a Good Example" and "Respect the Religious Beliefs of Others" and is the basis of our conduct code for both students and staff.

Students learn age-appropriate precepts and are encouraged to apply them at school and in life. In the upper grades, children complete class units on the different principles; in the lower grades, the principles are introduced through everyday examples by the classroom teacher. All students receive awards for using the precepts in their everyday life.

## QUALIFICATIONS OF ALL TEACHING STAFF

### **School Workforce composition**

We have 6 qualified teachers (4FTE) and 4 administration staff (3.6 FTE).  
There are no indigenous staff.

### **Teacher qualifications**

#### **School**

Kristy Nicolaou: Bachelor of Business and Bachelor of Education, Post Graduate Degree in Early Childhood

John Ford: Bachelor of Science, Diploma of Teaching

Andrea Parsons: Bachelor of Education

Stella Ting: Master of Teaching

Sandy Janlongsin: Master of Teaching

Elizabeth Deveson: Diploma of Teaching with Honors in Music

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Training from ISV on Child Safe Polices

Delphian School Reading Program Including Phonics

First Aid Training

Mandatory Reporting Education Module

The Learning Book

## SOCIAL CLIMATE

The school provides a caring community in which individuals feel value and develop a sense of belonging to their school. Each girl and boy is encouraged to develop a life-long love of learning, confidence, leadership skills, in an environment which values respect for the individual, tolerance and understanding of others.

## PARENT, TEACHER AND STUDENT SATISFACTION WITH THE SCHOOL

We survey our parents, students, and teachers through:

- Twice yearly Parent-Teacher discussions
- Additional parent meetings
- Student Self-Assessments, conferencing and class meetings
- Annual Parent Survey and Annual Staff Survey

All parents, students and teachers are encouraged to raise issues or concerns with the appropriate personnel within the school.

We also conduct surveys on our children once a year to chart their satisfaction and see where we can improve on the overall curriculum or services.

We have a very high level of dedication from our staff and have had a low level of concerns or issues raised with school personnel.

### **Student Exit Interviews**

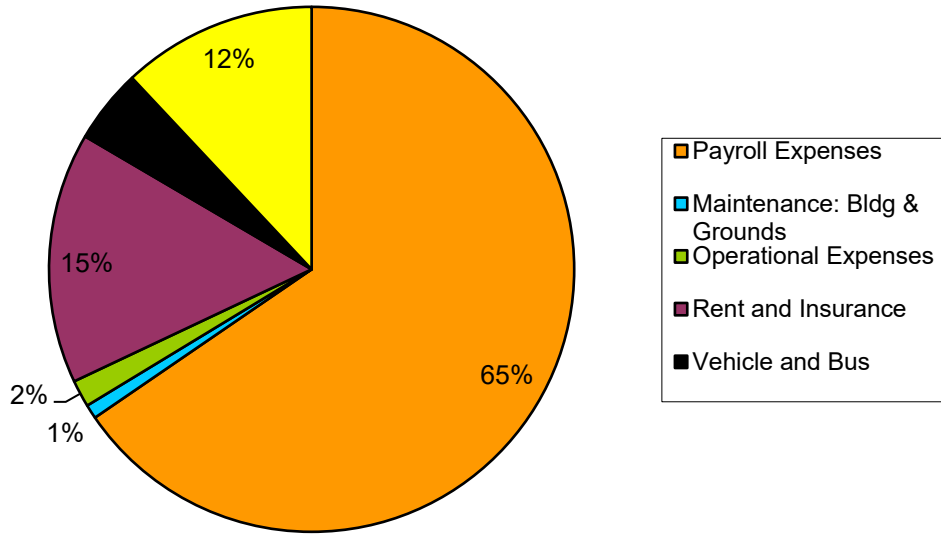
Reputation and enrolment growth are vital for the ongoing success of the School. Notification of a withdrawal is an opportunity for the School to gain information that may help to improve its services or, at best, retain the enrolment.

The School undertakes to conduct an exit interview with every family withdrawing a student from the School. The purpose of the interview is to:

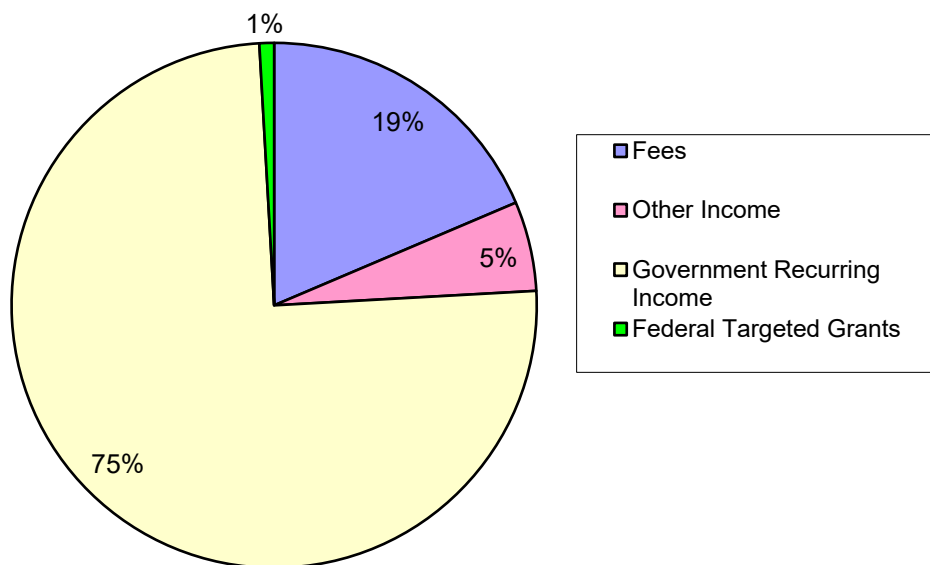
- Identify reasons for, and trends in, student withdrawals and possible areas for improvement at the School;
- Identify factors that may persuade parents to retain the enrolment.

## SCHOOL INCOME BROKEN DOWN

### Expenses



### Recurrent/Capital Income



## KEY STUDENT OUTCOMES

### STUDENT ATTENDANCE

#### Management of Non-Attendance

Students are marked present or absent at 9am. Students must also register their attendance if they arrive at school after this time. Parents/guardians are requested to phone the School to advise of their child's absence each day they are not attending or to make notes on the Compass Portal. If this phone call is not received by 9am, the School Reception will phone parents directly to advise their child has not been recorded as attending school.

### NAPLAN RESULTS

Refer to the *My School* website <http://www.myschool.edu.au/>

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

#### Some Highlights of the Year

##### Reading:

Our new reading program is now fully implemented, and the results have been extremely encouraging. Students have made significant gains in their reading comprehension, with many improving by one to two years beyond their expected reading level.

Collectively, students participating in the program have learned more than **35,000 new words** throughout the year, reflecting substantial growth in vocabulary, reading confidence, and overall literacy skills.

Strong literacy skills form the foundation of all learning. Reading comprehension and vocabulary development are essential to success across every area of the curriculum, yet these are areas that are often not given the level of explicit instruction they require within the current education system. This program is designed to address that gap by providing students with the skills they need to become confident, capable, and independent readers.

##### Science:

This year marked the launch of our new Science Lab, providing students in the Senior School with exciting opportunities to engage in hands-on scientific investigations and experiments. The laboratory has been fully equipped with the resources and equipment required to support a wide range of practical learning activities, enabling students to explore scientific concepts through inquiry, experimentation, and discovery.

The introduction of the Science Lab has enhanced our science program by fostering curiosity, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of the world through meaningful, interactive learning experiences.

### **Lilydale Tech College:**

This year our high school students continued to be part of the program offered at the Lilydale Tech College. This included a number of programs ranging from Farming to building robots. Each class is run by a professional in their field at the College set with very specific outcomes opening the door to more areas of education for our students.

### **Enriched excursions and incursions:**

The year lead the way with an increase in excursions and incursions giving students a hands on approach to life and expanding their horizons. The areas covered were art, science, problem solving and more.

### **School Sports:**

Our school continues to be an active participant in School Sport Victoria, providing students with opportunities to compete in a wide variety of sporting events throughout the year. In 2025, our students achieved outstanding success, winning several competitions, including tennis, downball, indoor soccer, as well as a number of individual events.

In addition to interschool competitions, students participated in our weekly Kelly Sports program, held every Friday. These engaging sessions expose students to a diverse range of sports and physical activities, helping to develop their fundamental movement skills, coordination, teamwork, sportsmanship, and confidence. Through regular participation, students continue to build healthy habits while developing a lifelong appreciation for physical activity and active living.

### **Performing Arts:**

This year saw a significant focus on the Performing Arts, with students participating in a diverse range of activities including singing, music, rhythm, dance, comedy, and dramatic performance. Throughout the year, students were encouraged to develop their creativity, confidence, collaboration, and performance skills through regular practice and participation.

For the first time in many years, each class worked alongside their teachers to select, develop, and rehearse their own performances for the end-of-year concert. Through dedication, teamwork, and countless hours of rehearsal, students produced an outstanding showcase of talent and creativity. The evening was a tremendous success, culminating in a standing ovation from the audience in recognition of the students' exceptional efforts and achievements.