



## Online Teacher Resources

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) provide a wide range of useful resources to assist teachers to implement the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). These can be accessed through the VELS website at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au>.

This brochure provides an overview of information on the VELS website and how teachers use this information in their planning and assessment of student achievement.

### P- 10 CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS

#### VELS Overview

The Prep to Year 10 curriculum for all Victorian schools is contained in the VELS. It is important for teachers to understand the rationale behind the VELS, its structure including the three learning strands, domains and dimensions. These are outlined in the VELS Overview.

A copy of the VELS Overview is available at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/about/overview.html>.

General information on the three broad stages of learning which students progress through is available at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/stages>.

#### Prep to Year 10 Standards

The standards for each domain include:

- an introduction
- a description of the structure of the domain
- learning focus statements
- standards for what students should know and be able to do at each level.

Standards for student achievement are set at six levels over the 11 years of compulsory schooling. The standards are introduced when developmentally appropriate for students so are not written for the six levels in all domains.

The standards are available at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/essential>.

### TEACHING STUDENTS WITH DIFFERENT NEEDS

#### VELS ESL Companion

Information on the broad stages of English language development, an outline of the ESL curriculum, and the standards and expectations for ESL learners are available at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/support/esl/esl.html>.

#### Students with Disabilities Guidelines

Guidelines on developing individual programs and assessing students with disabilities using the VELS are available at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/support/disability.html>.

### DOMAIN SUPPORT

Domain-specific information, advice and support materials to assist teachers in their understanding and application of each of the VELS domains are available at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/support/domainsupport.html>.

Concepts and skills charts have been developed for some domains. These highlight the progression of concepts and skills that students are expected to show at each level. Teachers can refer to these for both planning and assessment.

The charts are available at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/support/domainsupport/concept.html>.

### PLANNING TEACHING AND LEARNING

#### Using the VELS

Advice on how to use the VELS in whole school curriculum planning is available at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/about/usingthestandards.html>.

#### Teaching and Learning Resource

Advice on teaching and learning theory, the principles of learning and teaching, and strategies for teachers working with the VELS sample units is available at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/support/teaching.html>.

#### Sample Units

Student-centred units provide teachers with examples of how to link domains to support more meaningful contexts for learning and how these can be assessed against the standards across the strands.

Sample units which cover every level are available at [http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/support/sample\\_units.html](http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/support/sample_units.html).

## ASSESSING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

### Standards and Progression Points

The standards are used by teachers as the basis for assessing student achievement. These show the progression of student knowledge and achievement through the six levels.

Progression points are provided as examples of student progress between the standards. These are examples only and do not cover every element of a standard. Teachers and schools can use these as a reference point for writing their own examples.

Teachers then make on-balance, holistic judgments about student progress using the standards and progression point examples.

The standards for each domain with examples of progression points are available at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/progresspoints.html>.

PDF and Word versions are available at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/links/teachsuppmat.html#stdpp>.

### Assessment Maps (Annotated student work)

A range of student work samples are annotated to illustrate the standards and progression points. These can be used to support teachers in making consistent judgments about student achievement, for professional development or as a basis for moderation of student work with other teachers.

Annotated samples for each domain are available at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/maps>.

### Assessment Resource

Advice, ideas and strategies about the different types of assessment and how these can be used to gather evidence of student achievement against the standards are available at [http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/assessment\\_resource.html](http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/assessment_resource.html).

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has produced a range of resources to support the VELS. Please contact the Department directly for further information about the resources contained in this section.

Information on the Principles of Learning and Teaching is available at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingprinciples>.

Information on student reports is available at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/studentreports>.

Developmental Continuums P-10 for English and Mathematics provide evidence based indicators of progress, linked to powerful teaching strategies and are aligned to the progression points and the standards. Sample activities assist teachers in developing effective programs. The continuums are available at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/english/englishcontinuum> <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/maths/mathscontinuum> and <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/teachingresources/science/scicontinuum>.

Interactive resources and planning tools to assist teachers in their ICT development are available at <http://epotential.education.vic.gov.au>.

Languages Online provides free resources for language teachers as well as providing a rubric maker linked to the VELS and interactive gamemakers suitable for all domains. These resources are available at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/languagesonline>.

Digital Learning resources for use in the classroom are available at <https://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/dlr>.

## LINKING DOMAINS

### Cross-Curricular Perspectives

Examples of how themes can be used to develop teaching and learning programs across the curriculum are available at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/support/crosscurricular.html>.

These include units of work and examples of how these themes address the standards in several domains.

### Design Awareness in Schools

Support for teachers to develop their own and their students' understanding of design elements and principles and how these can be used within the VELS is available at <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au/support/dais>.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

The standards are only available from the VELS website <http://vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au>. The site contains all published information about the standards and how these can be used in planning and assessment.

For further information about the VELS please contact:

VELS Unit  
Ph: 03 9651 4410  
Email: [curriculum.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:curriculum.vcaa@edumail.vic.gov.au)

VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

