



Types of School

Government or Public Schools

- Children will usually go to the government school closest to where they live.
- Free education from Prep to Year 12 – parents pay for items such as books, uniform and extra-curricular or excursions activities.
- These schools can be:
 - A primary school - Prep to Year 6, generally for children between 5 and 11 years old
 - A secondary school - Years 7 to 10. Most secondary schools also include years 11 and 12 to prepare for tertiary study.
 - A P-12 school - combines primary and secondary at the same location.
 - A school that specialises in teaching children with a disability or additional needs.

Non-government Schools

- Sometimes called private schools, independent schools or Catholic schools.
- Not-government funded - not part of the government system and have their own enrolment process and costs.

Language Schools

- English language school - teach students who are learning English as an additional language.
- Community language schools - teach students' heritage languages outside normal school hours. Programs are available to students from Prep to Year 12, depending on the language.

Specialist Schools

- Schools that specialise in a subject or learning area:
 - Science and maths: John Monash Science School
 - Performing arts: Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School
 - Sports: Maribyrnong Secondary College
 - Leadership and enterprise: The Alpine School



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Selective Entry High Schools

- Schools for high-achieving students in years 9 to 12. They accept students through a competitive entrance exam.

Distance Education

- Programs for students who cannot attend regular classes because of specific reasons such as :
 - illness
 - distance to the nearest school
 - the student finding school difficult
- Teachers run online lessons and may send materials through the mail.
- Contact the Virtual School Victoria for eligibility requirements.

Home Schooling

- Where parents take on responsibility for teaching their child. It's an alternative to children attending a school.
- Find out the requirements for home schooling from the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA).



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Discussion:

1. You recently migrated to Australia with your family. You would like to enrol your children to school, however you feel that they need to improve their English a bit more before that. What type of school is the most suitable for your children at this stage?
2. There is a public school just down the road where you live. You are also thinking that you would like your children to have a strong faith foundation and you are willing to invest in your child's education. Which school would be the best option?
3. You have been noticing that your daughter has particular interest and talent in music during her primary education. You are thinking which secondary school is the best option for your daughter.