

Camping Program



Life Skills classes embark on an annual camp experience, usually at Teen Ranch.

Students return happy and fulfilled from an enjoyable, yet challenging, experience.

The camping program maintains the emphasis on developing independence and social skills.



Life Skills at Danebank

Who are the Life Skills Classes for?

Life Skills programs cater for girls with predominantly mild, ranging to moderate, learning disabilities. There are two classes, one group studying in Years 7–10 and the other in Years 11-12.

Who decides on the programs?

Essentially each student follows an individual program that satisfies a Board of Studies syllabus titled 'Life Skills'.

What are the best things about the programs?

The Danebank environment

Development of confidence.

Life Skills students are well looked after and safe. Staff and students are very supportive of them. They are well accepted and mix within the broader school community. The level of acceptance and the happy friendships that result lead to the development of social skills and confidence in these students. They blossom to become contributing members of the school.

Part of a whole school.

Life Skills students in Years 8-12 undertake pastoral care programs alongside mainstream students. They also attend mainstream classes in Sports and attend whole year group excursions. They may attend other classes where appropriate. They contribute to all whole school activities such as Form activities, Sports Carnivals and House Festivals. Many students are also involved in extra curricula activities and clubs.

Moral development.

As a Christian school, Danebank aims to encourage students' understanding of the Christian faith and the development of personal values.

Learning Programs

Individual Learning.

Students are taught within their groups, following programs that are individually appropriate so that each student can work to the best of her ability. Each student has individual and on-going assessment.

Living skills.

The emphasis of the teaching is on literal living skills, cooking, sewing, writing etc.

Program Example: Cooking.

Students choose recipes, make a list of ingredients needed, go to the supermarket to buy the ingredients, come back to school to make up the recipes and then enjoy a taste test. Sometimes there is even some left to take home for parents to try! Clearly a range of living and social skills are being taught by this program.

Co-operative Learning. While programs are individually based, there is also an emphasis on the development of interpersonal skills and respect for others.



Social Programs

Once a term, the Life Skills classes go out in the evening as a social group, to the movies, dinner or bowling etc. Teachers and former Life Skills students attend, making for a happy social outing for all.



Learning to use the Supermarket



Using a computer in class



Designing a project

Board courses.

Subject areas Years 7-10 include English, Maths, History/Geography, Computing, Science, Art, Languages, Design and Technology, Christian Studies, PD/H/PE and Music.

Years 11-12 students study English, Maths, Work & Community, Health, Christian Studies and Science. Careers based programs are included for both classes. Integration into mainstream electives is encouraged where appropriate.

Work Experience

Years 11&12 students attend one day's work experience per week, providing them with a range of community experiences. They acquire interpersonal skills and confidence in a range of work environments. Students are also linked with the appropriate government and other agencies at the end of their schooling.



Who teaches the Life Skills Classes?

The main teacher is Ms Bianca Jervis who holds a Bachelor of Education (Special Education) and also has a background in nursing. She finds great rewards in "helping each girl to achieve her potential". She is committed to providing each girl with opportunities and experiences to move her along the pathway towards being a contributing member of society.

Students also learn a range of subjects with other specialist teachers. Our School Counsellor and the Careers Counsellor play important roles in work experience programs and Personal and Careers guidance plus Teacher's Aides assist staff and students. All are strongly committed to the students.

What are the Home/School Links?

At all times, the school seeks to have an active partnership with parents and caregivers to be involved in the various stages of the program. Each student has a school/home conference annually which includes any health professionals involved in students' support. Participants plan learning and other goals for the year ahead. Communication between home and school is ongoing.

Why does DANEBANK have two Life Skills Classes?

A special class was first established in 1979 at a time when girls with mild learning disabilities were usually lost in mainstream classes and were destined for a limited quality of working life. At that time, the class work centred on business skills, eg. Typing. Since that time the Board of Studies has developed the two courses operating at Danebank. At the end of Year 10, students are awarded a Life Skills School Certificate and they receive a Life Skills Higher School Certificate at the end of Year 12.

Can Life Skills students go into mainstream classes full-time?

For most students, the Life Skills Class is the best environment for them to achieve. For others, being part of the Class is a temporary phase in their education. Careful consideration is given to the academic and social needs of each student.

What are students' future prospects?

Many girls have graduated from the class and have successfully entered the workforce or continued career-based courses.