Leader FAQs

What is ViSN?

ViSN (Virtual School Network) is a group of WA Catholic Schools who work together to provide world class online courses for their students.

Why would we get involved?
- ✓ To avoid timetable clashes
- ✓ To improve course offerings
- ✓ To address staffing issues
- ✓ To retain student enrolments
- ✓ To address staffing issues
- ✓ To save running small classes
- ✓ To support students too unwell to attend school fulltime/regularly
- ✓ To support students who are travelling or engaged in elite level sport

How can we be involved?

There are two ways to get involved:
1. Design and Deliver: a school nominates a teacher and course to design and deliver an online course. In return, the school gets a number of free enrolments for their students to use for enrolment in other ViSN courses.
2. Fee for Service: for schools not able to access option 1 above. Schools can enrol students for a fee. Please contact the Virtual School Program Manager for more details on this option.

Do students remain enrolled with our own school?

Yes. Schools are responsible for the mandatory governance and compliance requirements (e.g. SCSA data uploads) as they are students of your school.

What technology is required for a ViSN course?

Students will need access to a laptop or desktop computer, both at home and at school, as well an internet connection. The software used for ViSN courses is all web-based (O365 products and Claned).

What does it look like for students?

Students are timetabled by their own school for 5 periods a week. One of those 5 lessons are a Skype lesson with the course teacher and all other students enrolled in the same ViSN course. During the other 4 lessons, students are working independently or collaboratively with other students from their course on the work set out by the teacher.

What does it look like for the teacher?

Teachers are timetabled by their own school for 5 periods a week. The teacher will run a Skype lesson for all students once a week and spends the other 4 lessons responding to student queries, monitoring student progress, providing additional resources, providing feedback, contacting students etc. The teacher should not have face-to-face students at the same time as the online course.

What support do teachers get when developing their course?
Development of a course takes approximately 12 months as it is done in conjunction with their normal teaching duties. Teachers will be required to participate in a professional learning program, which is delivered face-to-face and online. In addition, it is also recommended that schools provide some release time for the teacher to work on developing their online course in between the professional learning requirements.

How do I know if they are quality courses?
ViSN courses are designed and delivered by experienced, passionate, content specialist teachers. All ViSN courses go through a two-part quality assurance process which involves a course review against the international standards for K-12 online teaching (digital pedagogy and design) and another for review of content, by external content specialists. In addition, ViSN courses are subject to the SCSA moderation process. Regular professional learning ensures ViSN teachers regularly reflect on course development and content.

What makes a good online learner?
Someone who is self-driven, is motivated, can work independently and who is willing to take responsibility for their own learning.

Do the ViSN courses have prerequisites?
Most of the courses have prerequisites, to give students an indication of the level you need to be operating at to be successful in the course.

Will students and teachers ever meet in person?
We hope to be able to create opportunities for students and teachers to meet face to face at least once a year, if not more.

What makes ViSN courses different to other online courses?
The development of ViSN courses and the training of ViSN eTeachers has been supported by CEWA's internationally acclaimed online learning experts. This means the eTeachers have had the best training, know how to deliver engaging courses and know what it takes to make online learning a meaningful and successful experience for students. Many of them have also studied online so have first hand experience of what it is like to study online.

How do the ViSN online courses compare to courses delivered face to face?
ViSN courses are developed according to SCSA requirements and are reviewed regularly against the International Standards for K-12 Online Learning. You can expect the courses to be just as rigorous as courses delivered in a school.

How do we support our online students?
Schools who have students enrolled in ViSN courses are required to provide an eMentor. The eMentor's role is to support students by checking in on them regularly, ensuring they can access the course, that they are on track and making progress as required. Further details on this role can be found on the 'Roles' tab of the VISN OneNote.

Who do I contact to further discuss ViSN?
Please contact Meredith Roe, Virtual School Program Manager
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