

A Skip Back in Time

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SOVEREIGN HILL • BALLARAT • VICTORIA



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The Red Hill National School
St Peter's Denominational School
Ballarat Benevolent Asylum Ragged School
St Alipius' Diggings School
Red Hill National Infant School



Introducing The Sovereign Hill School

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Would you like your students to experience the life of 1850s school children? Sovereign Hill School gives Primary students and their teachers a chance to attend a goldfields school!

Dressed in 19th century-style clothing, and using classrooms and equipment typical of the era, your students will enjoy two memorable days in one of our four themed schools as they role-play the lives of goldfields students and come to understand social conditions during the great Victorian Gold Rush.

Each year, over 8,000 students from Victoria and interstate enjoy a two-day programme based on the Irish National System of Education, which was widely used in 19th century Australia. It ensured that children were proficient at reading, writing and arithmetic and had a good general knowledge of geography, science and handcrafts.

Guided by qualified Primary teachers, students have the rare opportunity to re-create the lives of their ancestors in line with the National History Curriculum for Year 5.





Red Hill National School

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St Peter's Denominational School

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Ballarat Benevolent Asylum Ragged School

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St Alipius' Diggings School

St Alipius' Diggings School



Sovereign Hill Schools are situated inside Sovereign Hill's award-winning Outdoor Museum in Ballarat, Victoria.

Our programme teaches students about the differences between their own education and 19th century schooling. During lessons, students use slate pencils, dip pens and ink. At recess, they enjoy 19th century games with marbles, whipping tops and knucklebones.

Through costumed role-play and observing 1850s etiquette, students re-create the lives of goldrush children. Visits to some of the trades and businesses within the Township further enrich their experience and understanding of goldfields life.



The Ragged School caters for the underprivileged goldfields children. Students in the Ragged School become urchins of the 1850s – so destitute that they cannot attend conventional schools. Students learn reading, writing and arithmetic each morning, but



each afternoon they must obtain the skills needed to support themselves by practising a trade such as wheelwrighting, candlemaking, sewing or decorating ceramic tiles.

St Alipius' Diggings School is set in a tent in the Red Hill Gully Diggings. Students experience school life as it was for children raised on the diggings. Their 1850s curriculum may include reading, writing, poetry, arithmetic, grammar, geography, geometry and singing Irish folk songs. The programme is suitable for all schools, but can be tailored to strengthen studies of Catholic faith and tradition.





Red Hill National Infant School Red Hill National Infant School

This single-day programme gives Grade 2 students from local schools a unique goldfields school experience. Activities may include reading, writing and arithmetic, music and drawing. Of course, students will also experience the highlights of Sovereign Hill.

If your school is interested in a unique goldfields school experience, contact the Headteacher on:
Telephone 03 5337 1143
Facsimile 03 5331 5145
Email sovereign.hill.sch@edumail.vic.gov.au



Bookings open on March 1st every year for placement in the following year. Each school accommodates a maximum of 35 students. However, for an optimal experience, groups of 25 to 30 are recommended.

It is advisable to book early.

Staying with us!

Sovereign Hill has an excellent range of modern, on-site accommodation ideally suited to school groups.





39 Magpie Street, Ballarat Victoria 3350

Tel 03 5337 1143 Fax 03 5331 5145 www.sovereignhill.com.au/costumed-school