

*You will be met with curiosity, adventures and
find new passions In these walls you will grow
in spirit and compassion*



2026 PROSPECTUS

Let Your Light Shine

Our commitment

- Every student and visiting child has the right to feel safe and be safe in all school environments and beyond school hours.
- The wellbeing of children is always our first priority.
- We have zero tolerance for child abuse.
- We foster a child safe and child friendly environment where children can thrive without concern for their safety.
- Our commitment is inspired by the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ.
- Love, justice, and the sanctity of each human person are at the heart of all we do

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We acknowledge and pay respect to the original and ongoing custodians of the land upon which our schools are situated. We commit to actively working alongside First Nations people for healing, reconciliation and justice. May we all stand tall, stand firm, grounded in truth, together as one.



Welcome

St. Mary's is a vibrant, faith-filled Catholic learning community with a proud history of service and education in the Goulburn Valley. Since our beginnings, we have been dedicated to providing an environment where every child is encouraged to grow in knowledge, faith, and personal excellence. Guided by our school motto, *"Let Your Light Shine,"* we inspire students to live out the Gospel values of love, respect, and compassion while developing the confidence and skills to flourish in a changing world.

At St. Mary's, we believe every child is unique and capable of making a positive difference. Our commitment is to nurture the whole person—spiritually, emotionally, socially, physically, and academically. We achieve this through a rich and dynamic curriculum, high-quality teaching, and a strong emphasis on wellbeing. By tailoring learning to meet each child at their point of need, we empower students to reach their potential and develop the curiosity, resilience, and responsibility that prepare them for lifelong learning.

Our school is more than a place of learning; it is a thriving community where students, families, and staff work in partnership. We value diversity and inclusion, and we take pride in creating a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment where all families feel a strong sense of belonging. Opportunities for leadership, community service, and engagement in the arts and sport further enrich the St. Mary's experience.

It is a privilege to lead St. Mary's Primary School, Mooroopna. I warmly invite you to discover more about our community and to consider joining us in giving your child the gift of an education that nurtures faith, inspires learning, and empowers them to shine their light brightly in the world.

Elaine Vertriest
PRINCIPAL

THE *St Mary's Mooroopna* Difference



At St. Mary's, we know that choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you'll make. Families choose us because we are a welcoming community where children feel safe, happy, and valued. Our caring and dedicated staff place your child's learning and wellbeing at the centre of everything we do, ensuring they have every opportunity to thrive. From the early years through to Grade 6, students are encouraged to find their voice, grow in confidence, and discover their unique gifts.

Leadership opportunities, such as joining the Student Leadership Action Team, inspire children to dream big and make a difference. Alongside rich learning experiences, we nurture faith and character, guiding students to live with kindness, respect, and the gospel values. At St. Mary's, children don't just learn—they grow into the best version of themselves.

Graduate Outcomes at St. Mary's Primary School

At St. Mary's, we believe that the true measure of our success lies in the qualities our students carry with them when they graduate. We are proud to nurture children who are not only well-prepared for the next stage of their learning journey but who also embody the values and skills that will guide them throughout their lives.

Compassionate and socially just

Grounded in Gospel values, our students leave St. Mary's with a deep sense of empathy, fairness, and respect for the dignity of all people. They are committed to caring for others and contributing positively to their communities and the wider world.

Faith-filled and hope-driven

With hearts formed in faith, our graduates grow to be young people who are inspired by the teachings of Jesus. They carry with them a spirit of hope and love, enabling them to face challenges with courage and to celebrate life's joys with gratitude.

Respectful and accountable

St. Mary's students understand the importance of respect—for themselves, for others, and for the world around them. They take responsibility for their words and actions, and recognise the impact these have on building harmonious and sustainable communities.

Responsible and confident leaders

We encourage our children to show initiative, take ownership of their learning, and step forward as leaders in their own right. Our graduates leave with the confidence to pursue their unique path and to realise their God-given potential.

Curious, critical and creative thinkers

Graduates of St. Mary's are inquiring learners who embrace challenges with curiosity. They are willing to ask questions, take risks, problem solve, and think creatively—skills that prepare them to thrive in an ever-changing world.

Resilient and aspirational

We guide our students to develop resilience, optimism, and perseverance. They leave St. Mary's as young people who can adapt in the face of adversity and who dream big, aspiring to achieve their goals with determination and integrity

WHY CHOOSE ST. MARY'S MOOROOPNA?

- **Faith and Values First**
- **Safe, Nurturing Environment**
- **Personalised Learning for Every Child – Safe, happy and we strive to be successful**
- **Strong Academic Foundations**
- **Confidence and Leadership Skills**
- **Compassion and Social Justice**
- **Resilient and Optimistic Learners**
- **Partnership with Families**
- **Rich Opportunities Beyond the Classroom**
- **Graduates Who Shine**



Ready for tomorrow

*“Our graduates leave not just with
knowledge, but with the courage to
shape their world.”*



Magnify *Sandhurst*

Catholic Education Sandhurst rolled out *Magnify Sandhurst*, an evidence-informed, science of learning school improvement initiative, to its 51 Catholic schools across the Sandhurst Diocese at the beginning of 2025.

Magnify Sandhurst focuses on how the brain learns, how literacy is effectively taught, uses a low variance, knowledge-rich curriculum and the creation of positive classrooms. Our practice is calm, predictable, and repeatable to maximise learning time in all classrooms.

Magnify Sandhurst is deliberately bold and wide-ranging, generating whole-of-system improvement.

We have partnered with world-class organisations including LME Global, Ochre Education, Knowledge Society, Steplab and MultiLit.

Magnify Sandhurst aims to enhance learning outcomes through several key components:

STRUCTURED AND EVIDENCE-BASED LEARNING

Using the latest neuroscience and a structured, knowledge-rich curriculum, we ensure students build deep understanding.

A low-variance curriculum provides students with a consistent learning experience and reduces the amount of preparation and planning required by teachers, allowing teachers to focus on individual student needs.

MAGNIFYING LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Providing targeted support and resources to improve reading, writing, and math skills at all levels. Special focus on structured literacy in F-2 and sequential programs from Years 3-10.

INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING FOR TEACHERS

Each teacher receives a dedicated coach and program to learn and practice the best techniques to meet students' learning needs. We are investing in our teachers to provide the best possible learning outcomes for students in our Catholic schools.

CALM CLASSROOMS AND POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Promoting calm, supportive, and positive learning environments through common practices, expectations, and social norms, our work includes a new program for student social and behavioural learning. Our classrooms will have a consistent approach throughout each Sandhurst school to support all students to learn in a calm, orderly learning environment.

WHY families choose

Catholic education



Families choose Catholic education because it offers more than strong academic outcomes, it nurtures the whole person.

Our schools provide safe, inclusive and supportive environments where every child can flourish.

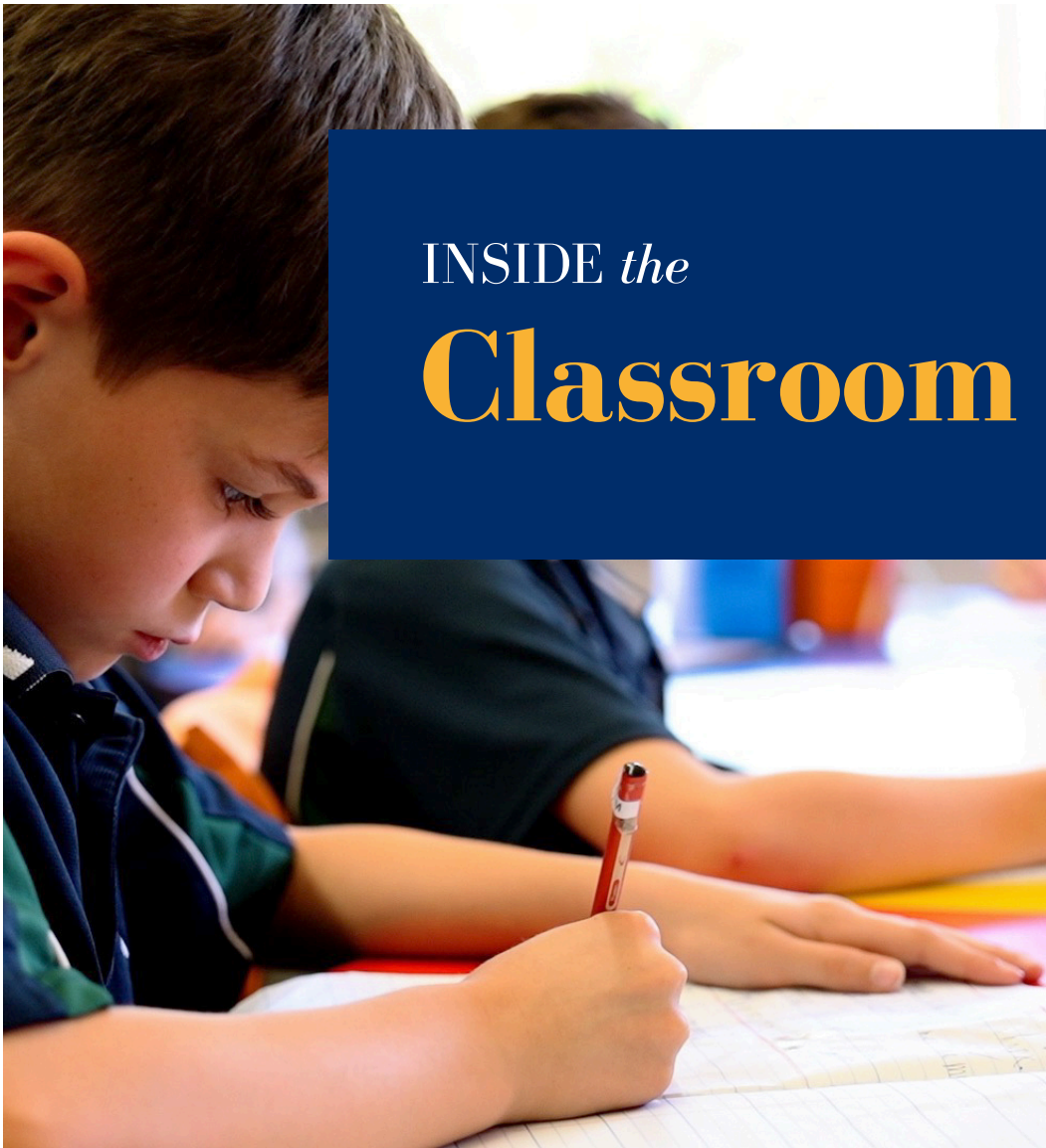
Recent research by the Melbourne Institute, using the Household, Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia survey shows students who attend Catholic schools are more likely to experience greater happiness, stronger community connection and long-term career success.

They are more likely to feel connected to their communities, contribute meaningfully to society, and pursue careers that reflect both personal fulfilment and social impact.

These outcomes stem from an education that places equal emphasis on academic excellence, spiritual formation and character development; ensuring students are not only well-prepared for life but also equipped to live it with purpose and joy.

At St. Mary's, we are proud to be part of this story.





INSIDE *the* **Classroom**

No matter the age or stage of a student, when learning at St. Mary's, their experience will be developed around four key opportunities:

PURPOSEFUL LEARNING
POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS
REALISING POTENTIAL
BUILDING WELLBEING

These core beliefs are held in esteem by all teaching and support staff. They are forefront in our minds when we plan all learning opportunities, and provide staff, students and families with practical, relevant strategies to follow so that St. Mary's children can fulfill their call to let their light shine as living witnesses to the Gospel values.

Learning at St. Mary's

At St. Mary's Primary School, we are committed to providing a rich and holistic education that nurtures every child's academic, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual growth. Guided by our Vision Statement, we aim to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to make informed decisions and contribute positively to society, while living out the Gospel values and letting their light shine.

Our curriculum is anchored in the Victorian Curriculum F-10, complemented by the Source of Life Religious Education program. The Sacramental program is run as part of the Religious Education program at St. Mary's.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives are embedded across our learning programs, supported by strong community partnerships.

We place a strong focus on literacy and numeracy, ensuring students receive differentiated teaching tailored to their needs. Literacy learning incorporates Reading and Viewing, Writing, and Speaking and Listening, with the MultiLit program. Numeracy focuses on Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, and Statistics & Probability, building essential skills for life beyond school.

Social and emotional learning is central to our curriculum. As a Respectful Relationships School, we explicitly teach respect, resilience, healthy relationships, and confidence to help students thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

Teaching at St. Mary's

Teaching at St. Mary's is guided by high expectations, professional expertise, and a deep commitment to the success of every student. Our educators use a variety of approaches, including whole-class, small-group, and individual instruction, to ensure every child's learning needs are met.

We explicitly teach the four capabilities of the Victorian Curriculum—Critical and Creative Thinking, Ethical, Intercultural, and Personal and Social—so that students develop the skills needed for lifelong learning and active citizenship.

Technology is integrated across all learning areas, with students taught to use ICT effectively, safely, and responsibly. This empowers them to become confident and capable digital citizens.

Above all, our teaching reflects a belief that children learn best when they feel valued, challenged, and supported. At St. Mary's, learning and teaching is dynamic, inclusive, and designed to help each child shine.

10 Facts About Learning and Teaching at St. Mary's

- 1. Holistic Education**
- 2. Faith-Based Learning**
- 3. Strong Foundations**
- 4. Specialist Programs**
- 5. Inquiry Approach**
- 6. Respectful Relationships**
- 7. Victorian Curriculum Focus**
- 8. Inclusive Teaching**
- 9. Digital Citizenship**
- 10. Student-Centred Learning**

SPECIALIST PROGRAM

Specialist Programs at St. Mary's
At St. Mary's Primary School, we offer a rich and diverse range of specialist programs that nurture creativity, build confidence, and support the development of the whole child.

VISUAL ARTS

Through Visual Arts, students explore a wide variety of media and techniques, developing their imagination and artistic expression. They learn to appreciate art as a form of communication, while building skills in creativity, design, and problem-solving.

PERFORMING ARTS

Our Performing Arts program encourages students to express themselves through music, drama, and movement. Students develop confidence, teamwork, and presentation skills while engaging in performances that celebrate their talents and bring our community together.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health and PE at St. Mary's focuses on developing active, healthy lifestyles and fostering a love of sport and physical activity. Students participate in skill-based lessons, team games, and fitness activities that promote wellbeing, resilience, and sportsmanship. Opportunities to take part in school and district sporting events further extend their experiences.

ITALIAN

Learning Italian opens a window into another culture, fostering intercultural understanding and communication skills. Students engage in speaking, listening, reading, and writing activities that build confidence in using a new language and broaden their global perspective.

PERCEPTUAL MOTOR PROGRAM

For our Foundation students, we offer the Perceptual Motor Program (PMP), which provides structured activities designed to develop gross motor skills, coordination, balance, and spatial awareness. PMP supports young learners in building the physical foundations that contribute to confidence and readiness for classroom learning.

8 Facts about the Specialist Program

- 1. Develop creativity and artistic expression across a variety of media.**
- 2. Build confidence and teamwork through music, drama, and movement.**
- 3. Promote active, healthy lifestyles and physical wellbeing.**
- 4. Participate in school and district sporting events.**
- 5. Learn another language while exploring culture and communication.**
- 6. Foundation students develop coordination, balance, and motor skills.**
- 7. Foster imagination and critical thinking in Visual and Performing Arts.**
- 8. Perform and share learning in front of peers and community**



Community

At St. Mary's, we value strong partnerships between families, staff, and the wider community to support every child's learning and growth. Together, we create a welcoming and inclusive environment where students can thrive.

Families are encouraged to get involved by volunteering at events or joining the Parents and Friends Committee or Advisory Council. By working together, we ensure every student is supported both at school and at home, helping them reach their full potential.

We support families through services such as:



Before School Supervision



Breakfast Club



After School Care Programs



Bus Transport



Second-Hand Uniform Shop



Parents+Friends Committee

YOUR *questions*

Answered

Here are some frequently asked questions about our Catholic schools and why we believe you will feel at home in one of our welcoming school settings.

WHO CAN ENROL?

We warmly welcome families from all backgrounds to join our community. Our schools provide a high-quality and affordable education for everyone, not just Catholics.

DO I NEED TO BE CATHOLIC? DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE CATHOLIC OR BAPTISED TO ATTEND?

No, you, your child or your family do not need to be Catholic or baptised, we welcome families of all faiths and backgrounds, however, priority will be given to baptised Catholics in the case where schools are at capacity based on an enrolment priority criteria approved by the Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited Board.

IF MY CHILD ISN'T CATHOLIC, WILL THEY FEEL LEFT OUT?

Not at all. All religious education which includes the classroom teaching of religion and the religious life of the school, is respectful of all learners and is based on the foundational belief in the dignity of every person.

MASS ATTENDANCE FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES?

It is the expectation that students will attend masses that occur during school times as part of the school

celebrations, significant faith days and liturgical events. While we encourage participation in Parish Masses outside of school hours to foster a sense of community, it is not mandatory.

CAN I AFFORD THE FEES?

Catholic schools remain an affordable option for most families and is surprisingly more affordable than some may realise. When you enrol your child in a Catholic school your fees are inclusive, with no hidden costs.

Our fees are structured to be affordable, with options for payment plans. Families with a Health Care Card are eligible for significant fee relief in our Catholic primary schools.

Catholic School fees include all external costs, including camps, excursions, swimming lessons, technology and more! The ability to pay school fees is not a pre-requisite for enrolment in our schools.

DO I HAVE TO GO TO MY NEAREST CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

We do not have zoning regulations for our primary schools, therefore, you are able to enrol your child at any of our Catholic primary schools. Some of our Secondary Colleges do have enrolment boundaries relating to local Parish boundaries and we encourage you to contact your local school to discuss. We encourage you to visit our schools during open days or tours to find the best fit.

HOW DO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CATER FOR INDIGENOUS STUDENTS?

Catholic schools' welcome Indigenous students and a variety of specialist educational and pastoral care strategies are available to ensure that Indigenous students feel supported and culturally respected.

WHAT CAN I EXPECT FROM A CATHOLIC SCHOOL?

You can expect calm, safe and predictable classrooms with a strong academic focus. Our Magnify Program enhances learning and we have a variety of programs in each of our schools to support the emotional wellbeing of students. We offer broad support services and prioritise child safety with a zero-tolerance policy for bullying.

WHY CHOOSE CATHOLIC EDUCATION?

Catholic schools offer different pathways for students, from early education to senior education. We focus on nurturing, safe, and inclusive environments.

Our academic program, Magnify Sandhurst brings together world class partners in education to ensure that all students are able to maximise their learning potential.

With recent research showing that students who attended a Catholic school are more likely to be happier, contribute to community and be employed, there has never been a better time to be in Catholic Education!





Stay connected

We'd love to welcome you to St. Mary's.

VISIT US

School tours available by appointment

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS OF CARE

Available before and after school, providing safe and engaging activities.

ENROLMENT INFORMATION

Application forms available online or from our school office.

CONTACT

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