ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL WANGARATTA

Enrolment Booklet





Principal - Gabrielle Downie 40 – 52 OVENS ST WANGARATTA 03 57 21 57 95 principal@spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au Dear Parent, Welcome to St Patrick's Primary School, Wangaratta. On behalf of Catholic Education Sandhurst, Father Nathan and the broader school community, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family. Our School is a Catholic school grounded in the rich traditions of the Brigidine Sisters. We seek to model Christ's values in all we do and live out our faith in the relationships we form with each other. St Patrick's strives to provide a safe learning environment that cultivates each child's creative skills and abilities. We are committed to the development of the whole child - spiritually, intellectually, physically, emotionally and socially, to provide quality learning and teaching that supports all to reach their full potential. Our vibrant, welcoming community creates a sense of belonging and shared responsibility, where staff work actively in partnership with families for the benefit of all. This booklet provides a brief overview of our school and what it has to offer for your child. Your sincerely **Gabrielle Downie** Principal





Identity Statement

St Patrick's Catholic Primary school community embraces the traditions of the Brigidine Order that celebrates life, reaches out to others and actively cares for our world.

Vision

St Patrick's Primary School strives to:

Guide and support students on their faith journey through experiences of the Catholic tradition, building a strong sense of belonging, responsibility and wonder within our school, church and global communities.

Develop an environment that builds on student resilience, self-respect, confidence and empathy in partnership with families.

Foster a learning environment that provides a holistic education that nurtures all learners in order for them to realise their full potential.

Model and foster a safe and supportive environment for students and their families within the school community.

Provide learning and teaching experiences that promote decision making.

Conserve God's creation and recognize the traditional owners of the land

Graduate Outcomes

We endeavour to create graduates who will:

Have a dynamic faith

Be committed to social justice

Be environmentally aware

Develop and sustain loving relationships

Be life-long learners

Realise their potential

Be creative problem-solvers

Be resilient, confident and independent

Be respectful

Have courage and integrity

Be self-aware

Enjoy their experiences

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and pay respect to the Yorta Yorta nations as the original and ongoing custodians of the land upon which we meet today. We commit to actively working alongside First Nations people for healing, reconciliation and justice.

The Catholic education faith community is inclusive and acknowledges that we are all made in the image and likeness of God and we are created in love. People of all faiths, genders, sexualities and cultures are therefore respected equally in the Sandhurst Catholic community.

We acknowledge the pain and suffering of all who have been hurt in body, mind and spirit by those who have betrayed the trust placed in them.

May we all stand tall, stand firm, grounded in truth, together as one.

Commitment to Child Safety

All children have the right to feel safe and be safe within the confines of St Patrick's environment. St Patrick's School is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for all children and young people in its school and has a zero tolerance for child abuse. St Patrick's School will at all times ensure the ongoing safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care.

Children's Rights to Child Safety

The staff and volunteers of Sacred Heart Primary School encourage students to express their views.

We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all students to openly express their views and feel comfortable about giving voice to the things that are important to them. We teach students about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns students, or their parents or carers, raise with us.

Valuing Diversity and Inclusion

We value and celebrate diversity, especially cultural diversity, and we do not tolerate discriminatory practices. To achieve this, we:

- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal students and their families;
- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment from culturally and/or linguistically; and
- promote the personal safety, participation and empowerment of students with a disability and diverse backgrounds and their families and make them feel welcome and part of all aspects of school life.

Our child safe policies can be viewed on our website https://spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au

History

St Patrick's School was first established in 1854. Fr Smythe was the Parish Priest of the district who resided in Beechworth, a progressive community due to the discovery of gold in the area. At the time, the school was run by lay teachers. Originally, it ran two school session, one night and one day. The night school catered for adults who wanted to learn to read and write, and students who could not attend during the day due to working on the family farm.

St Patrick's School was first registered in 1858 and opened by Fr Kums, the Parish Priest of Beechworth who administered the Wangaratta District at that time. Mr and Mrs Michael Toohey were the day teachers. During this time, the school was a small wooden building that was located beside St Patrick's Church in Ford Street.

In 1862, Wangaratta was declared a separate Mission and the Parish of Wangaratta was established. Fr Devitt Galen was the first Parish Priest.

In 1877, Government Aid was withdrawn from denominational schools and, despite this, St Patrick's Primary School struggled on for the next ten years through the dedication and charity of the parishioners of Wangaratta.

In 1887, Reverend Dr Crane (the first Bishop of Sandhurst) sent a request to the Reverend Dr Lynch (Bishop of Kildare – Ireland) for Brigidine Sisters to be sent from Goresbridge, Ireland, to take control of St Patrick's School. The Brigidine Sisters arrived in 1888 and assumed the running of St Patrick's Primary school as well as establishing a finishing school for girls (St Joseph's College – later to become part of Galen College).

The Brigidine sisters' impact on Catholic Education has been enormous. Their charism of strength and kindness is reflected within the culture of St Patrick's Primary School and it is the centrepiece of their association with the Parishes of Wangaratta for well over one hundred and fifty years.

In 1921, a new school was established and was officially opened by Archbishop Mannix on the current Ovens St site. Today it continues to be a vibrant Catholic school committed to the mission of the church, the message of Jesus.

St Patrick's Parish

The St Patrick's School is situated in St Patrick's Parish, Wangaratta. The parish boasts a beautiful church, which was built in 1863. We are fortunate to have the services of two priests, namely Fr Nathan Verallo and Fr Shibu Pezhumthottathil to support our community.

Diocese of Sandhurst

St Patrick's Primary School is situated in the Diocese of Sandhurst. The Diocese covers an area of Victoria which includes Bendigo, Echuca, Kerang, Shepparton, Benalla, Wangaratta, Yarrawonga, Wodonga and Myrtleford.

Catholic Schools in Sandhurst are governed by Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd, led by the Director of Catholic Education in the Sandhurst Diocese Mr Paul Desmond. There are forty two Catholic primary schools, three F – 12 schools, nine Secondary Schools and three Specialist setting schools in the Diocese.

The diocese is divided into three Deaneries, the Western, Goulburn and North Eastern Deaneries. St Patrick's is part of the North Eastern Deanery.

The Culture of the Catholic School

At the heart of St Patrick's Catholic School is a Christ centred ethos that permeates all aspects of school life.

As a Catholic school St Patrick's is committed to fostering a Christian community that is centred on the person of Jesus and guided by Gospel values. Within the community we are committed to:

- Fostering the holistic development of each student
- Assisting student to integrate and celebrate faith and life
- Pursuing opportunities to promote social justice, reconciliation and environmental responsibility locally and globally

We believe that Religious Education is

- A process of searching which engages the whole person, giving meaning to and purpose for our human existence.
- Links our Catholic Christian story to our personal story, connecting life to faith, faith to life.
- Calls us to be stewards to God's creation and responsibly exercise our creative spirit.
- Fosters a love of and care for the environment through both curriculum units and care for the school environment.

The 'Source of Life' is the religious Education curriculum framework and is used by all Catholic school, both primary and secondary, in the Diocese of Sandhurst. The content of the Source of Life is organised into the following strands: God, Jesus Christ, Church, Christian Prayer. Scripture, Christian Life, Sacraments and Religion and Society.

Non-Catholic families who enrol their children in St Patrick's School need to understand the distinctive nature, identity and purpose of a Catholic School and support the vision of St Patrick's School.

F.I.R.E Carriers (Friends Igniting Reconciliation through Education)

St Patrick's Primary School is committed to Reconciliation and sees this as the process of bridging the gap that has developed between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Indigenous Australians due to the events of history.

Reconciliation is a way of developing lines of communication recognising the integrity and dignity of all parties so that both cultures can walk together in friendship.

Each year students who choose to become a FIRE carrier are commissioned by an Aboriginal educator from Catholic Education Sandhurst who continues to work closely with our school.

St Patrick's 2022 School Structure

St Patrick's Primary School has approximately 282 students and 34 staff.

The School Leadership Team consists of:

Principal Gabrielle Downie
Deputy Principal Helen Lyons
Religious Education Leader Janina RInaldi
Junior School Leader Grace Patterson
Middle School Leader Eleanore Sirianni
Senior School Leader Helen Rickard

School Captains 2022 Pippa O'Connor

Henry Ackerly Harry Matheson Meg Winter

Classroom Structures are as follows:

Specialist and Coordinators

Lucia Alesiani

Foundation Grace Patterson Learner Diversity Helen Lyons
Lisa Box & Wellbeing

Helen Lyons

Year 1/2 Janina Rinaldi
Sarah Newton Plus one Teachers Caitlin Elliott

Karen Bray

Abby Batey

Year 3/4 Nara Nicoll Numeracy Amanda Cassidy

Eleanore Sirianni
Thomas McDonald Intervention Carolyn Levesque

Year 5/6 Helen Rickard Extension Program Katie Pallot

Sharyn Ackerly Science Katie Pallot

Amanda Cassidy
Jessica Whitehead Language Nara Nicoll

Learner Support Officers

Office Administration Annette Beitzel

Karen Rizzo

Michelle Prestianni Sustainability Leader Sharyn Ackerly

Shirley Southwell

Jodie Mays Physical Education Catherine Kittelty

Alison Simonetti Leah Cornish

Simone Gladigau
Tian McDonald Bluearth Jemma Mahony
Lyn Walker

Paul Walker Music Leonie Brien Caitlin Elliott

Rosie Pane Art Abby Batey

Maintenance/Cleaner John Downie Library Assistant Jodie Mays

Digital Technology Jessica Whitehead

Leader

The Enrolment Procedure

- 1. Initial inquiry tours are held to allow parents/carers to view the school and seek further information about St Patrick's.
- 2. An application for enrolment at this school must first be made by a parent/guardian of the child by completing an **Application for Enrolment form**. This form is included in the enrolment package and can be collected from the school office or through our inquiry tours.
- **3.** The school will notify the parents/guardians in writing of a provisional enrolment offer.
- 4. The parents/guardians are then required to accept this provisional enrolment offer by submitting a completed Offer of Enrolment: Request for Information form.
- 5. This school will require parents/guardians and the child to attend an enrolment interview.
- **6.** This school will then notify parents/guardians in writing of the final enrolment decision.
- 7. The enrolment of a student is deemed complete, when a completed and signed Enrolment Agreement has been received by the school.
- **8.** This school will confirm in writing the receipt of the Enrolment Agreement.

Transition days

Foundation staff visit the kindergartens in Term 3 each year to engage with the children who will be attending St Patrick's the following year. Transition transcripts are provided to the school by the kindergarten to inform the school of each child's progress.

Transition days are held in November each year, for children who are enrolled the following year. This is an opportunity for your child to gradually transition into school life. Parents will be notified of the dates and times of these days. Further days can be arranged for students who require additional support.

Kinder to School Transition Program

St Patrick's comprehensive transition program for children beginning School includes:

- Meetings with Preschool teachers to learn about the children
- A letter from each child's Foundation teacher welcoming them to St Patrick's
- A school information handbook, given to all parents prior to the start of the school year.
- A Year 6 buddy who meets the student on their transition days and supports them during their foundation Year.
- Parent information and preparation sessions to support families in the transition

Years 6 to 7 Transition

Yr. 7 coordinators are welcomed to Yr. 6 students in their transition to secondary schooling. Parents are encouraged to attend a Yr. 7 information evening at their chosen secondary school.

The staff of St Patrick's school also meet with the secondary schools to transfer knowledge and information about students' learning needs.

2023 Term dates

Term 1 27th January (Staff), 30th Jan (students) - 6th April
Term 2 24th April – 23rd June

Term 3 10th July - 15th September

Term 4 2nd October- 20th December

These start and end dates may vary depending on the placement of staff professional development day

School times

8:55 - 11:00 Beginning of school day

11:00 - 11:45 Recess

1pm - 1:45 Years 3-6 Lunch

1:45 - 2:30 Year F - 2 Lunch

3:20 Bus Bell

3:25 End of school

Fruit breaks are scheduled throughout the day

Attendance and Absence

Children are expected to attend school every day that the school is open unless there is a reasonable excuse for absence. Parents are requested to email the teacher directly or telephone the office to advise of a child being absent by no later than 9:10am.

The school has a sign in / sign out process for those leaving early or arriving late.

Parent Communication

The School Newsletter is emailed out to families each Wednesday

Our school website also contains vital information about our school at spwangaratta.catholic.edu.au

St Patrick's has a Facebook page to inform parents of information and to celebrate our school community.

All correspondence to families is digital where practicable.

Direct parent communication is accessed through our Parent Access Module (PAM) which is part of our online SIMON portal. Parent are logged on once enrolled.

Parent Teacher Student Interviews

St Patrick's encourages open and transparent communication between families and the school.

Formal parent/teacher/student interviews are held twice a year. In addition, families can contact the school to arrange a meeting with the teacher if there are concerns or to seek an update on their child's progress.

Program Support Group (PSG) meetings are held each term for those with diverse learning needs

Assessment and Reporting

In addition to the formal semester reporting, teachers continually observe and assess each child's learning. The school's assessment schedule outlines the various testing regime for each year level. At different times a task or test may be set to gain a clearer understanding of a child's progress. These assessments give important feedback strategies for both the individual student and the teacher.

In Victoria, NAPLAN is administered by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority for students in Years 3 and 5.

Curriculum

St Patricks is committed to providing quality teaching and learning in all areas of the curriculum. The school follows the Victorian Curriculum to plan and implement their lessons. While the curriculum outlines the learning for each year level, St Patrick's adjusts this to meet the relevant learning needs of the child. Plus One teachers and Educational Support Officers (ESO) give extra support in the classroom during key learning times.

For further information on the Victorian Curriculum see the website below. https://victoriancurriculum.vcaa.vic.edu.au/

Literacy

St Patrick's maintains a strong focus in the development of literacy skills. It is our belief that all students can learn to read and write given sufficient time and support. The school commits to a two-hour literacy block daily. This provides a quality focused learning time for student development. Literacy permeates explicitly through all curriculum areas.

Numeracy

St Patrick's believes the essential learning in mathematics includes being confident, creative users and communicators of mathematics. Students learn to pose, investigate, problem solve and reason using mathematical skills. A practical hands-on approach is used to make learning purposeful.

Language - Italian

St Patrick's offers Italian as a second language for students from Foundation to Year 6. This includes learning about the culture as well as the study of the language.

Digital Technology

The Digital Technologies curriculum enables students to become confident and creative developers of digital solutions. Learning includes an understanding of digital systems, data and information and the processing. Students in Years 3-6 are equipped with an iPad, allowing them access approved learning programs. Students in F - 2 have a 1:2 ratio access to iPad.

Science

The Science curriculum provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of important scientific concepts and processes. These knowledge, understandings and skills support students in making informed decisions about local, national and global issues. Students have the opportunity to work with our science specialist for one semester each year.

Physical Visual and Performing Arts

St Patrick's offers weekly Music and Art lessons with specialist teachers and include performances ad displays at the Festival of the Sacred, Arts on Show and the Mary MacKillop Art Exibition.

Physical Education

St Patrick's offers a Physical Education program run by a specialist teacher. The program includes skill development as well as team games. Students also have the opportunity to engage in variety of sports such as soccer, netball, football within the district. Students participate in a swimming program annually.

All programs emphasise participation, persistence and good sportsmanship.

In addition, the school runs the Bluearth program. This is a physical education program that focuses on goal setting, strategy, self-development and teamwork.

Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships (RRRR)

All students at St Patrick's school engage in a weekly session of Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships. This program provides comprehensive lessons to support the topics of emotional literacy, personal strengths, positive coping, problem-solving, stress management, help-seeking, gender and identity, and positive gender relations.

Extension Program

The extension program is project-based for students in Years 1 to Year 6. Each project has a learning focus aiming to extend students in a learning area that they show aptitude for, with an overarching aim to extend their critical thinking skills. Past projects have included: river detectives, debating, capability of drones, script writing and movie making and CSIRO partnership research investigations.

Learner diversity

St Patrick's offers a number of avenues and programs to support students with particular needs. Students who require additional support have a Personal Learning Plan (PLP) developed to support their learning. Staff and parents meet on a regular basis to monitor and review the student's progress. St Patrick's has a Speech Pathologist who attends the school weekly as well as being able to have access to other Allied care professionals.

Pastoral wellbeing

St Patrick's School, through our Catholic mission, endeavours to offer support to any family or student in need. We have connections with St. Vincent de Paul.

Within our St Patrick's community, the fostering of healthy relationships amongst students, staff and parents is a responsibility shared by everyone. The ways in which all members of the school community interact is vital to each person's sense of self- worth and belonging.

Pastoral programs include:

- Season for Growth (loss and grief program)
- Peaceful kids
- Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships
- Access to our visiting Psychologist
- Life relationships
- Playtime activities
- Social skills programs
- Mindfulness

Camps and Excursion

Camps and excursions are planned as part of the learning and teaching program and have a clear educational purpose. Excursions provide opportunities that extend children's knowledge about a particular key learning area. Camps and excursions provide opportunities that encourage and support friendships, develop leadership skills and build independence as well as enhance learning.

Assemblies

Assemblies are scheduled each Friday afternoon at 2:45pm where a class facilitates the organisation and running of this event. The students lead the assembly and it is a time to come together, pray, and celebrate achievements.

Tuition and fees - Please note that these are 2022 figures and 2023 figures may vary in some areas

Student Fee F -2 \$200.00

3-6 \$ 250.00

Family Fees \$1,430.00

Technology Levy \$50.00

Capital Levy \$100.00

Diocesan Levy \$55.00

Swimming \$60.00

Camps fee / excursion varies for each year level depending on the event and the type of excursion planned

School Advisory Council

The Primary School Advisory Council is the leading consultative and advisory group for the Principal, as an active forum for parent and community participation, providing support and advice principally in strategic planning and school improvement. As outlined in the CES Limited **Governance Charter** Advisory Council members do not have decision making powers.

The Primary School Advisory Council is intended to:

- provide a voice for members of the school community
- actively support, in collaboration with the local parish, the Vision and Catholic Identity of the School/College
- provide input into and support for strategic planning and directions
- provide input and contribute advice in the processes of school improvement and school review
- support the Principal in meeting his/her responsibilities and accountabilities for educational outcomes, effective stewardship of resources, and annual reporting
- actively support the Principal in the encouragement of parent/guardian engagement
- support the ongoing sustainability of the Council and its members in its

Parents and Friends

The Parent and Friends is a vital organisation in the life of St Patrick's, offering an opportunity for parents to gather and become involved in the life of the school community as well as meet new friends. Our P& F provides support for the school in areas such as social functions and fundraising. We invite and encourage all parents to become involved. The P & F meets once a month.

Out of school Hours Care (OSHC)

St Patrick's currently provides an after-school care service for families. The service runs from Monday to Friday between the hours of 3.25pm until 6.00pm. A holiday program is run one week of each term break, excluding the Christmas holidays. The holiday program may be interrupted from time to time due to the current building works and ground development

Bus Travel

Wangaratta High School is the bus coordinating school for the district. Families wishing to use this service must register with the bus coordinator at the High School (5723 0500).

A shuttle bus runs from St Patrick's to the High school each school day for student to board their bus.

^{*}Disclaimer some information in this booklet may change from time to time as processes are reviewed

Uniform Policy - Extract

St Patrick's School uniform is compulsory. The uniform Policy exists to clearly inform the school community of expectations regarding the wearing of St Patrick's School Uniform.

At St Patrick's, we believe that a uniform:

- Creates a sense of belonging
- Creates a sense of unity
- Presents an identity to the wider community
- Relieves economic pressure on parents
- Needs to reflect the climate and be appropriate for school activities

Therefore, at St Patrick's, we aim to:

- Provide access to uniforms for all families
- Have each student show pride in the school uniform
- Have each student wear appropriate school uniform at all times
- Provide a suitable uniform that is comfortable, safe and durable for the various activities in which students participate

Uniform implementation and standards

Uniforms are to be kept clean and in good repair at all times.

When wearing our uniform, regardless of the location and time, students represent St Patrick's school and therefore are expected to conduct themselves in a safe, respectful and responsible manner at all times. Students are to supply a note of explanation from their parent / guardian if they are not in the appropriate uniform.

Casual Clothes Day

There are a number of days during the year when students are invited to wear casual or dress up clothes. Casual or dress up clothes must be sun safe including wearing a sun safe hat during hat times. Logos, prints and styles of casual wear must be of an appropriate nature for primary school environments. Footwear must have a closed toe and heel.

Uniform notice

The following steps will be taken if a student is regularly out of uniform:

- Discussion with student
- Uniform notice will be issued
- Discussion with parent and staff ember
- Discussion with parent and Principal

St Patrick's Uniform

All uniform items can be purchased from Steers, Norton St Wangaratta

Girls Summer St Patrick's check school dress OR St Patrick's Polo top & grey skorts/shorts

(Terms 1 & 4) St Patrick's hat - bucket or wide brim

White socks, Black shoes

Girls Winter St Patrick's Polo top (short or long sleeve)

(Terms 2 & 3) & tartan pants/tartan skirt/tartan pinafore & green tights

St Patrick's Polo top (short or long sleeve), grey skorts/shorts & green tights

White socks, Black shoes

Girls Sport St Patrick's Polo top (short or long sleeve) G

Green sports skirt/green shorts (Summer)

Green track-pant (Winter option)
St Patrick's hat - bucket or wide brim

White socks, Sneakers

Boys Summer St Patrick's Polo top (short or long sleeve) & grey shorts

(Terms 1 & 4) St Patrick's hat - bucket or wide brim

Grey socks, Black shoes

Boys Winter St Patrick's Polo top (short or long sleeve) & grey trouser

(Terms 2 & 3) Grey socks, Black shoes

Boys Sport Green Uniform shirt (short or long sleeve)

Green basketball shorts (Summer)
Green track-pant (Winter option)
St Patrick's hat - bucket or wide brim

White socks, Sneakers

St Patrick's school vests, jumpers or windcheaters to be worn any time.

Year 6 students may wear their leadership polo throughout their senior year

Accessories

Hair that is shoulder length or longer must be tied back.

Plain hair clips and hair bands are permitted only.

Gold, green ribbons or school material scrunchies etc are permitted only.

Jewellery must not be worn due to safety issues; however, one set of plain studs may be worn in pierced ears. Nail polish is not permitted.

St Patrick's Student Behaviour Policy - Extract

The St Patrick's School Student Behaviour Policy reflects the school community's shared expectations in relation to student engagement, attendance and behaviour. This Policy sets out the clear processes to be followed in order to support students' behavioural, educational and emotional engagement.

Every student has the right to a learning environment free from bullying and intimidation and to feel safe and happy at school. They have the right to be treated fairly and with dignity. Discipline is necessary to ensure the safety and welfare of all our students, teachers and staff and to provide a conducive learning environment.

Our Policy provides an overview of how St Patrick's School will:

- 1. promote positive behaviour in the school community;
- 2. seek to prevent behavioural issues; and
- 3. respond to challenging student behaviour occurring at school, at a school activity

away from the school grounds or while travelling to or from school or a school activity.

St Patrick's School is committed to providing equitable access and opportunity for all. The school considers that awareness of, recognition of, and responsiveness to the needs and rights of all individuals are essential to human dignity. Inclusive practices embrace and celebrate diversity, invite belonging and provide opportunities for participation and achievement of appropriate learning outcomes.

When concerns arise about a student's on-going behaviour or when a student is displaying consistent behaviour of concern, St Patrick's will implement a targeted response to identify and address the behaviour and teach replacement behaviour.

Students have a right to procedural fairness in dealings that involve their interests.

The principles of procedural fairness include the right to:

- Know what the rules are, and what behaviour is expected of them
- Have decisions determined by a reasonable and unbiased person
- Know the allegations that have been made, and to respond to them
- Be heard before a decision is made
- To have a decision reviewed

St Patrick's School Wangaratta is committed to ensuring procedural fairness when discipling a student.

Individual behaviour management plans may be made in certain circumstances. The plan will be negotiated between school staff, students and parents / guardians.

Desired behaviour goals of the student will be clearly described. The plan will outline changes required to the learning environment to support the student to modify their behaviour.

The use of corporal punishment is expressly prohibited at the school and under the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic).