

## ***Why choose St Francis for your child?***

You should consider a St Francis Catholic College education for numerous reasons. We are a Catholic comprehensive college offering K-12 education, which means we are a one-stop-shop for your family. Regardless of your child's age, all family members can attend St Francis. We care that students give their personal best every single day. We believe that we offer learning experiences that surpass traditional primary and high schools, and critically, your values in your family home are the values of our college. We develop respectful, compassionate, honest, and reliable students who are proud of their achievements, families, and college.



Kindergarten students begin their St Francis Catholic College experience with a playgroup over several weeks in Term 4, the year before they start. We provide many activities, and this is a fantastic opportunity for young children to come together, meet each other and develop new friendships. It provides an excellent chance for teachers, students and parents/carers to meet and helps significantly with the transition to 'big school'. We follow this up with two one-to-one interviews with your child to best discover where they are at with their learning and development before they commence classes. Kindergarten students also benefit from a 'Kinder buddies' program when each child is paired with an older primary student.

Our primary-aged students have opportunities to experience state-of-the-art specialist facilities such as Science Laboratories, Food Technology Rooms, Music Rooms and Dance & Drama workshops. Students can access specialist teachers and senior students to support their learning. Students participate in science experiments and Food Technology practical experiences; they use specialist equipment such as laser engravers, 3D printers, robotics, photography equipment, a range of musical instruments and specialised sporting equipment not offered in traditional primary school settings.

Transition points, such as the journey from primary to high school, are far less significant, with the college gradually introducing specialist teachers and facilities, emphasising high expectations and increasing academic standards. The college works hard on increasing student resilience and having students take greater responsibility for their organisation and learning.

While our Year 6 numbers double in Year 7, existing students can transition into Year 7 familiar with their school setting, not having to leave siblings and friends. New Year 7 students then can be mentored by existing St Francis students. Additionally, new Year 7 students are then inducted

into the College House System - an induction process that includes a Year 7 camp early in the school year and a range of events (including carnivals).

We make no excuse for having very high expectations of students with a focus on their Pastoral Care. Several leadership opportunities are available to students in Years 4, 8, & 12. Middle and Senior Year students assist juniors with learning and Pastoral Care and organise games and activities. Students are always encouraged to be excellent role models. Senior student leaders and House Captains (Junior, Middle, & Senior) also have formal specific roles to support others.

Students in Years 7 & 8 can volunteer for the College's 'Eddies' program. Eddies are students who give up their break times to receive training and are rostered to assist in the playground. They wear high-visibility vests and support young students who may be isolated on the playground, have difficulty engaging socially, or question the rules of playground games. The 'Eddies' are role models for junior students and an additional set of playground eyes and ears. The 'Jeddies' (Junior Eddies) are volunteer student leaders from Year 4 who also assist.

Opportunities abound for students in Years 7-12, allowing a broad range of specialist facilities and subject electives. No matter what your child is passionate about, there are areas in which they can succeed at St Francis. We have various academic and sporting pursuits, and we have developed a relationship with sporting and dance clubs and community groups, providing possible activities to pursue. These options include an already comprehensive range of events and clubs run by our generous staff who volunteer their time.

Our SFCC Graduate Statement is our starting point. We have backward-mapped learning experiences from Pastoral Care Programs, leadership and faith experiences from Kindergarten to Year 12 to ensure each young person has the best opportunity to be successful. Indeed, we aim to work in partnership with families so that our graduates are:

- Faith-filled people called by the Gospels to be inclusive with open hearts and minds.
- Successful, holistic and lifelong learners who are creative and critical thinkers.
- Confident, respectful, resilient and empathetic members of our community.
- Responsible global citizens with a strong sense of belonging, stewards of the Earth and of service to others.

We thank you for showing interest in our fabulous College, and video links on our website further outline who we are, our hopes and our expectations.

Warm regards,



Matthew McMahon (College Principal)