



ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC COLLEGE

A Diocesan Catholic College in the Edmund Rice Tradition

Email: info@sfccdow.catholic.edu.au

Website: www.sfccdow.catholic.edu.au

Phone: 02 4645 3400

ENROLMENT 2022-2023 Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs

Why K-12 schooling?

There are many advantages that St Francis as a K-12 College has over traditional primary and high schools:

1. St Francis provides opportunities for families to have siblings in one school, regardless of their age. Siblings can stay together and assist each other.
2. Your child is well known and cared for. They are very familiar with the environment and traditional transition points where students have to leave schools at Year 6, leave friends and start in a completely different school with new teachers, routines and expectations is avoided.
3. St Francis provides educational opportunities that traditional primary schools and high schools cannot. Our primary aged students have access to specialist teachers, specialist resources and facilities. Our secondary students have access to unique leadership opportunities.
4. Our staff benefit greatly from professional collaboration. Primary & Secondary trained teachers are working very closely, learn from one another and develop stronger pedagogical skills. Primary trained teachers may be planning learning experiences beyond Year 6 and secondary trained staff may be planning learning experiences prior to Year 7. This understanding leads to a seamless K-12 approach to learning and teaching.
5. Parent and carers can develop a strong relationship with all members of the College community which are maintained over many years.

Should I be concerned about my Kindergarten student starting in a school with teenage children?

No. This has not been a problem. Our older students are strongly encouraged to care and demonstrate leadership around our younger students. Initiatives like the 'Eddies' program see older students volunteering to undergo training and support younger students. These students are rostered to give up their break time, wear high vis vests and scan playground areas looking for students who are isolated, socially unsure and include them with peers in structured games and activities. They act as older 'buddies' and serve as great role models.

How many classes will there be in my child's Year Group?

At capacity St Francis will be one of Sydney's largest schools with a total student population of approx 1700. It will have:

3 classes of each year - Kindergarten through to 6

6 classes of each year - 7 to 12

We are growing quickly. Currently in 2021, we have a student population of 1060. Our K-6 classes are at capacity with 3 classes of 30 students in each year group. Each of year groups 7-10 offer 4-5 classes. Our current Year 11 cohort is made up of 2-3 classes.



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What are the typical class sizes at St Francis?

Typically class sizes are a maximum of 30 students per class for Kindergarten to Year 12. The exception is Technology & Applied Studies classes & Creative Arts classes which are generally capped at 24.

Will St Francis have an Early Learning Centre/Preschool?

In short, yes but it is not likely for a couple of years. An Early Learning Centre has been planned for the future. It is most likely to be operated by CatholicCare Wollongong (the same company that operates OOSH). In 2020, CatholicCare conducted a second feasibility study into the viability of establishing an Early Learning Centre at St Francis and it looked very positive. An area for the Early Learning Centre has been designated in the College Master Plan. There are however, no dates for the commencement of this service at this time.

Does the College have an Outside of School Hours Care (OOSH) service?

Yes. This service is operated by CatholicCare Wollongong and is in high demand. OOSH services run each weekday morning from 6:30am until school starts at 8:30am. In the afternoon OOSH starts at 2:45pm and runs through to 6:30pm. Students are supported to engage in Homework as well as having structured activities and sports. Currently the OOSH is licensed to operate with 97 students. Further information & costs are available on our College website sfccdow.catholic.edu.au or by contacting Sunita, the Centre Manager on 0418 201 291.

What is the Starting Age for Kindergarten Students?

Children enrolling for Kindergarten must turn 5 before the 30th June the year they commence school. Parents of students born in the months of April-June may wish to consider delaying their child's start at school for an additional year as this often allows them to mature and have a more productive and successful start.

How do you decide who is enrolled at the College?

All schools in the Diocese of Wollongong use a standard criteria for enrolment. The criteria is outlined on page 1 of the Enrolment Application inside the Enrolment Pack. Preference is given to practising Catholic families from the local area. There is no quota for the number of Catholics or non-Catholics, we simply follow the diocesan enrolment criteria until available places are filled.

How much does it cost to attend St Francis?

Parents & carers are expected to pay school fees if their children are enrolled at the College. There are sibling discounts available for families who are enrolling more than one child. The discounts are greater for each subsequent child. A schedule of fees for 2020 is available on our College website.

How do students get to school?

Currently students can travel to and from school the following ways:

- Walk
- Ride a bike
- Parent pickup & drop off at the front gate.
- Carline- Parents drop students off and pick up in designated car line area.



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- Bus- Interline Bus 869 services travel North to Prestons, Lurnea & Liverpool or South to Edmondson Park Station, Bardia, Macquarie Links, Macquarie Fields & Ingleburn. There is also a service to Willowdale & Emerald Hills. We expect to establish a new service to Horningsea Park, Carnes Hill & West Hoxton soon.

Where do I purchase the St Francis Uniform?

St Francis has a uniform shop onsite in the College Reception Building. It is operated independently by Noone Imagewear. The College Uniform Policy & Noone price list are included in the Enrolment Pack and College website.

When will the College buildings be complete?

Stage 1, our \$16million Innovation Centre & Stage 2 our \$6million Performance Centre are complete. These provide state-of-the-art specialist facilities for Science, Visual Arts, Music, Dance, Drama, PDHPE, Food Technology, Engineering, Design & Technology, Robotics, Textiles, Hospitality, Construction, Industrial Technology Timber, Photography, Ceramics and more.

Stages 3 & 4, our 1700 seat College Hall & Middle Years Block is nearing completion & expected to open in Term 3 this year. Stages 5, 6 & 7, our Administration Building, Junior Years Block & College Library are about to commence and are expected to be completed mid next year. This will leave only our Senior Years Block remaining.

For more information see our display at Open Day (March 6) or view our 3D walk-throughs of the College Master Plan on our website.

What access to computers will my child have?

Students in Kindergarten through to Year 4 will be provided with access to iPads as required.

Students in Years 5-10 will be asked to 'Bring Your Own Designated Device' (BYODD) where we require all students to bring a Macbook to school everyday as part of their learning.

St Francis has a preferred supplier of EduComIT (<https://www.educomit.com.au>) which is an authorised Apple reseller however parents are more than welcome to buy the device from wherever they deem fit.

Where do I get more information?

Website - www.sfccdown.catholic.edu.au

Facebook page - Search 'St Francis Catholic College, Edmondson Park'