



Saint David's
PARISH SCHOOL

Quote from our Director

When I got this job I was very excited about the possibilities to continue the excellence of Catholic education. I hope most people understand that young people who graduate from Catholic schools achieve wonderful results and more importantly than that, they are really good people.

They have a critical conscience to do things for other people, they are good thinkers, good discerners, they are culturally aware and globally aware.

As a parent of two children in Catholic schools, I don't think you could ask for any more for any young person, but especially for your own children.

Dr Neil McGoran,
CEO Catholic Education SA



Saint David's Parish School welcomes you!



Leanne Lawler
Principal

Our commitment is to provide a quality education in partnership with parents and families.

A Reception to Year 6 school, Saint David's prides itself on being a centre of learning that is innovative, creative and informed, as well as offering a welcoming, respectful, safe and healthy environment for all our community.

Taking inspiration from the life St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the Saint David's motto – 'The Lord is my Shepherd' – we trust in God's compassion and care, while responding to the call to lead and serve.

Saint David's has an exciting future, seeking out and implementing the best of progressive and innovative learning and wellbeing strategies, in each classroom and across the school.

Book a tour today so you can see for yourself, what we can offer your child, in partnership with you.



About Us

WHO WE ARE

Saint David's Parish School opened in 1977 as a co-educational, Reception to Year 6, Catholic Primary School.

Nestled in the foothills suburb of Tea Tree Gully, Saint David's continues to offer a competitive local primary school option for families living in the North Eastern suburbs.

VISION

Saint David's Parish School is a vibrant, inclusive, Catholic community inspired by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop fostering faith and learning so as to nurture optimistic compassionate people of the world.

MISSION

At Saint David's Parish School, we embrace our motto "The Lord is my Shepherd", trusting in God's compassion and care for all, while responding to the call to lead and serve, now and into the future.

In partnership with families, we engage our students in a dynamic, holistic education that values uniqueness and develops gifts within the context of a Christ-centred environment.

VALUES

Having a positive culture at our school makes for happier, more successful students.

Our core school values are:

- Faith
- Community
- Respect
- Excellence

These values underpin all our school policies, practices and decisions. Our values provide a strong framework for how we interact, learn and play together as a school community and foster a sense of belonging in our students.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At Saint David's, our Religious Education program is set up to support parents raising their children in the Catholic Faith and those who are wanting to share an environment of spiritual development and strong family values. At Saint David's we value diversity and welcome families of all variations, from all cultural and religious backgrounds. As a Catholic school, we have a deep belief in the value of community and our responsibility to show kindness and respect to members from all faith backgrounds.

Celebration is a key focus of our Religious Education program and so Masses and liturgies are held regularly to enrich the children's appreciation of their faith. Students attend regular Masses at the local Parish Church and all classes are given the opportunity to lead Masses throughout the year.

Saint David's follows the Religious Education Framework, Crossways to guide our curriculum.

Facilities

Saint David's Parish School makes excellent use of its foothills environment and facilities to offer comprehensive programs and deliver a rich curriculum.

Our facilities include:

- ↳ Multiple outdoor play areas consisting of two hard-court areas, a grassed oval, tennis courts, a covered courtyard, two playgrounds and a nature play garden.
- ↳ A large indoor Gymnasium
- ↳ A new double storey building housing our Reception to Year 2 classes. The design of the building promotes 21st century learning with opportunities to join classes together and support learners with an education that promotes creative thinking. Sliding doors in each classroom connect student learning with the outdoors and the natural world. The inclusion of a dedicated Key Literacy and STEM room and two common spaces enhances a sense of community and provides flexible learning opportunities.
- ↳ A well-resourced Music Suite including a large open space for class music lessons with additional smaller rooms for one on one instrument tuition sessions.
- ↳ A specialist Italian Language Room
- ↳ A well-resourced Library
- ↳ Interactive whiteboards or LED Display screens in all learning spaces
- ↳ 1:1 devices for students in Years 4-6
- ↳ Shared laptops for Year 3 students
- ↳ Banks of iPads in our Reception to Year 2 classrooms
- ↳ Our preschool learning hub, which is home to our Playgroup, Bright Stars Program and mid-year Transition intake.
- ↳ A Canteen providing a wide variety of healthy options for students with online ordering facilities.
- ↳ A friendly and welcoming Before and After School Care (OSHC) space.

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum focuses on the academic, social and emotional development of every student and our learning programs are designed to develop students' confidence, responsibility, resilience, knowledge, skills and capabilities relevant to our world both now and for the future.

Currently the school offers a contemporary teaching and learning program based on:

- ↳ The Australian Curriculum
- ↳ Crossways
- ↳ Specialist Curriculum areas that complement the curriculum taught at Saint David's include Music, Italian, and Physical Education

Our strong curriculum focus is reinforced by our school-wide focus on EDI (Explicit Direct Instruction) and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

LITERACY

We understand how vital literacy skills are to support all learning and use evidence-based methods to ensure all students succeed in this area. Students participate in a morning Literacy Block each day where they are explicitly taught to read and write using a structured synthetic phonics approach. This involves teaching students the relationships between letters and sounds in a systematic and sequential way.

We ensure our synthetic phonics instruction is effective by integrating phonics into a comprehensive literacy program.

When teaching students to read, our literacy program includes these 6 key areas:

1. Phonological Awareness
2. Phonics
3. Oral Language
4. Fluency
5. Vocabulary
6. Comprehension

EXPLICIT DIRECT INSTRUCTION

Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI) is a research-based plan for creating and delivering well designed and well taught lessons. EDI is an instructional approach that helps students learn more, learn faster & most importantly, remember what they are taught.

Student understanding is regularly checked throughout the lesson so that the teacher can monitor who requires additional support or who needs to be extended in the learning process.



Information Technologies (IT)

A 2017 expansion in our IT capabilities has ensured that students at all levels within our school have access to technology on a daily basis. Laptops and iPads are available for students to use.

Research has proven that these interactive methods of learning foster creativity, teamwork and develop engaged learners. The use of these technologies allows our teaching staff greater flexibility in meeting the specific needs of individual students and enable students to better manage their individual learning.

Through our expansion in technology, we have increased opportunities to engage students in fun learning activities through a medium which captivates and inspires students to extend themselves.

Through our focus on Information Technology, we offer:

- ↳ an extensive wi-fi network across our entire school
- ↳ teacher developmental support in IT
- ↳ 1:1 laptops in Years 4-6

ONLINE SAFETY

To ensure that our students understand the importance of maintaining their personal safety online we actively teach aspects of cyber safety at all levels of the school.

Whether using technology in the classroom or at home our students learn the importance of behaving responsibly and respectfully online.

We encourage our parents to regularly engage in discussions with their children about their online activity and to set guidelines for use at home.

STEM

- ↳ STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is an engaging and exciting learning area that is continuing to grow. A key goal at Saint David's with STEM is to use a clear school wide STEM philosophy to plan innovative and challenging learning experiences with an authentic context.
- ↳ Our STEM room includes a range of resources to support teachers and students in developing STEM skills including a dedicated LEGO space complete with LEGO Wall, a range of makerspace materials and a variety of digital technologies.
- ↳ A lunchtime LEGO Club for students in Reception to Year 3 is available and students in Year 4-6 can register for STEM Club, a program providing opportunities to be involved in hands-on projects as well as experimenting with robotics and technology.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students are encouraged to get active in PE lessons and they love it!

Physical Education lessons at Saint David's Parish School provide the opportunity for students to develop and enhance their natural tendency for movement and active play. The ultimate goal is to develop enthusiasm for physical activity and to maintain and encourage students' skills so that they become committed to pursuing an active lifestyle.

As well as meeting all formal curriculum requirements, we offer an extensive sports program including:

- ↳ Extra-curricular sports including swimming, football, athletics, cross-country running, soccer, netball, cricket and basketball
- ↳ Annual school Sports Carnival and Inter-school sporting competitions
- ↳ Reception to Year 3 Swim and Survive

MUSIC

Music is an important focus at Saint David's Parish School. All students participate in weekly music lessons where they are exposed to different music genres and a variety of instruments.

Music is another area where technology is integrated into lessons. Students work with our specialist music teacher using the latest programs to create their own music compositions.

Students have the opportunity to perform in our choirs, school band, performance ensembles and percussion troupe.

Private music tuition is available from Year 1 for the following instruments: guitar, drums, voice, piano/ keyboard, ukulele, recorder, flute and violin.

LIBRARY

As the hub of our school, the Library is essential to all student learning and programs within our community. The Library is well resourced for both curriculum needs and students' individual interests and leisure activities. Staff and students are encouraged to access the Library to enhance and support their learning.



NATURE PLAY

While there is a huge amount of research that supports the benefits that daily contact with nature has on children, we can see examples of this each and every day as our students engage in our Nature Play Space.

Our Nature Play Space has a rocky creek bed, lots of natural elements such as logs, rocks and trees for climbing on and around, a mud play area for making marvellous creations and some tunnels to explore.

Whether it is observing the cause and effect of their actions when they divert water in the creek bed, experimenting with the best way to construct a bridge, or investigating the birds and insects that inhabit the area, the positive learning outcomes are clearly evident. The space is a great place for students to learn problem-solving, valuable social skills such as communication and teamwork, as well as gaining a deeper appreciation and respect for nature and the environment.

Diverse Learning Needs

At Saint David's Parish School, we have a strong commitment to education and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to shine. We celebrate the uniqueness of each individual and work with our students and families to unlock personal strengths and characteristics.

At Saint David's, we strongly believe that it is the responsibility of all teachers to support our learners.

To meet the needs of all learners, programs are differentiated within the classroom setting. International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) and Maths Club are examples of opportunities for accelerated learners.

For students needing additional support with their learning, we offer a number of flexible learning support programs depending on resourcing and student needs.

Some of these programs have included:

- ↳ Learning Assistance Program (LAP)
- ↳ Gross Motor Skills Program
- ↳ Small classroom group work and one on one support is also provided as required
- ↳ NESSY - Reading and Literacy Program

Tier 3 Support is for students who require additional literacy assistance. It is an intensive, multisensory program focusing on phonetic instruction and the alphabetic principle.



Student Well-being

Our Student Well-being Program is the commitment Saint David's School makes to the total health, comfort and happiness of our students and to the education and development of the 'whole child'. In this 'whole child' approach we recognise that each and every child within our care deserves to be safe, healthy, engaged, encouraged and challenged.

The core aims are to ensure that we are providing an environment that is welcoming, respectful, safe and healthy for the whole school community. We promote inclusion and celebrate diversity, where everyone feels like they belong.

Some of the different ways that we cater to individual student well-being includes:

- ↳ Activities using the Child Protection Program
- ↳ Implementing Be You- a program that was developed in collaboration with the Commonwealth Government Department of Health, Beyond Blue, the Australian Psychological Society, Principals Australia Institute and Early Childhood Australia.
- ↳ Offering many leadership opportunities to students at all levels
- ↳ Offering support programs, such as Seasons of Growth, to students who may be experiencing grief and loss due to separation or death
- ↳ Providing access to our on-site counsellor to help children manage everyday challenges
- ↳ Implementing the Friendly Schools Plus Program
- ↳ Offering a broad and comprehensive range of activities and extra-curricular opportunities to give all students the opportunity to develop a sense of pride and feeling of success
- ↳ Providing the opportunity for every student to learn skills for creating and sustaining strong and healthy relationships through our focus on restorative practices
- ↳ Providing parent educational workshops
- ↳ Student Voice
- ↳ Kids Club

CAMPS AND EXCURSIONS

Increased independence, improved social skills, unplugging from technology, increased physical activity and creating lifelong memories are just some of the benefits of our annual camp program.

Students in years 3 - 6 participate in annual camps as part of a focus on outdoor education. Our camp program has students participating in a variety of exciting overnight educational experiences with focuses on Indigenous Education, ecology, aquatic education, adventure and wildlife education.

All of our camps, incursions and excursions are conducted to enhance and support classroom studies. They often provide practical experiences to extend learning in a particular curriculum area.

PLAYGROUP

(Children 0-4 years)

Playgroup at Saint David's Parish School provides a great opportunity for children and parents/ carers to socialise and build friendships within our welcoming school setting. Children become familiar with our school environment and the friendly faces, sights and sounds associated with a busy school.

Playgroup is offered to preschool children on Tuesdays between 9.00am and 10.30am during school terms in the Bright Stars Room. All are welcome!

BRIGHT STARS

Bright Stars is a wonderful program that supports your child's transition from kindergarten to school life at Saint David's. In Bright Stars, children build friendships with their future classmates, learn school routines, explore the school grounds and participate in exciting learning experiences. The Bright Stars program runs on Friday (for 3 hours) for 5 weeks in the term prior to your child starting school.



CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY

Children's University Australasia is an innovative program that engages children and young people in beyond school learning and encourages and rewards participants for taking responsibility for their own learning.

Activities can be completed before school, at lunch time, after school, on weekends or in the holidays depending on their free time. Graduating is a real highlight as students get presented with their certificate in a special ceremony at Bonython Hall at the University of Adelaide.

UNIFORM

The Saint David's Parish School uniform is an important aspect of our school as it gives students a sense of community.

Our students show pride in themselves and their school by meeting requirements relating to presentation.

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS CARE

Saint David's Parish School operates both Before and After School Care services for our families, as well as care on full-day and half-day closures. Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) offers the students a great variety of physical, social and creative activities in a fun, relaxed and caring environment. The friendly and welcoming OSHC space features a fully functional kitchen and a variety of creative play areas.

Before School Care begins at 7.15am each school day and After School Care closes at 6.00pm each school evening.

More information about enrolling your child in our OSHC service can be found on our school website.

VOLUNTEERING & PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We are exceptionally fortunate to have a very active Parents and Friends Group at Saint David's. The Parents and Friends meet regularly to support the school through fundraising events, social activities and school events.

We encourage family participation and involvement in a broad range of school activities, including:

- Classroom activities
- Fundraising and social activities
- Parents and Friends Committee
- School Board and Sub-Committee Membership

We believe that volunteers can make a significant contribution to the school community by giving their time and sharing their skills and expertise. All of our volunteers are required to successfully meet requirements of the Catholic Education Screening Process and online volunteer awareness course.



Pathways In Education

What is a pathway in education?

A pathway in education should be a clear and seamless path through all educational steps from primary to secondary school and beyond. A clear pathway will give your child confidence in their journey, reduce anxiety and allow you to plan financially.

We collaborate closely with our partners to ensure that our students are supported stepping from primary school to high school.

To Secondary School

By selecting one of our key partners for secondary schooling you are assured of getting a school with consistent values, strong focus on student well-being, clear behavioural expectations and high academic goals.

Students from Saint David's Parish School have priority access to Gleeson, Kildare and St Paul's.



Gleeson College

Gleeson College offers a quality, Catholic, Secondary, Co-Education. Individual support and broad opportunities are provided to assist all students to achieve their personal excellence. Delivering consistently high academic outcomes, extensive flexible learning opportunities and outstanding facilities, Gleeson provides an exceptional learning environment for your child from Years 7-12.



St Pauls' College

St Paul's College is a Catholic school for boys from Reception to Year 12. St Paul's offers a variety of academic and vocational pathways that cater specifically for boys and their needs as well as having a dedicated on-site trade training centre. St Paul's provides high-quality education that is inclusive and affordable.



Kildare College

Kildare College offers a diverse and stimulating educational program for girls in their secondary school years. Kildare's students are consistently recognised for outstanding academic results however, Kildare's unique approach to education goes beyond the classroom to develop a desire for excellence and nurture a love of lifelong learning.





We look forward to working with you to support your child in their educational journey.

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“It is a big decision and at the end of it, at the end of schooling, you want to be able to look back and say ‘thank you’ to the school, because they’ve helped to shape your child to be the person that he or she is now.”

Dr Neil McGoran,
CEO Catholic Education SA

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