Saint Mary’s Catholic College
South Burnett

Prospectus

Welcome

Saint Mary’s Catholic College is a co-educational P-12 Catholic College offering quality inclusive education to the students of the South Burnett region.

The College belongs to the community of over 130 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Brisbane and provides a seamless education for students from Prep to Year 12. The College has been proudly serving families in the South Burnett district since 1990, following the amalgamation of the St Mary’s Parish Primary and Secondary Schools.

Catholic Education in the South Burnett was originally offered by the Sisters of Charity in 1929. In 1934 the Sisters of the Good Samaritan commenced their work in the Kingaroy Parish schools.

Following in the tradition of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan, the College has adopted their Benedictine philosophy, values and tradition.

We call all in our community, to embrace these Benedictine values:
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Safe
- Be Just
- Be Your Best

Special Features of Saint Mary’s Catholic College
- A seamless education from Prep to Year 12.
- A focus on the spiritual growth and holistic education of all students.
- A safe family environment where students feel valued.
- Programs designed to support the diverse learning needs of all of our students.
- An excellent academic tradition and program.
- Sporting, cultural and enrichment programs.
- Small class sizes.
- State of the art facilities.
- High levels of University/Apprenticeship placement.
- Strong parent participation of College life.
- An excellent Vocational Education (TAFE, Apprenticeship and Traineeship) program.
- Family discounts, bursaries and concessions available.
- Equestrian team.
- School Wide Positive Behaviour Support.
Statement of Recognition

Saint Mary’s Catholic College acknowledges that our community is built on the traditional lands of the Wakka Wakka Nation.

We pay respects to the elders of the Wakka Wakka Nation, past and present, the custodians of this country, since the beginning.

We respectfully acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region.
Our Catholic Christian faith is central to all that we do at Saint Mary’s Catholic College. This is reflected in the religious life of our College, families and parish.

Throughout the year, we celebrate many special days such as the Feast Days for Mary, Help of Christians and St. Benedict (our patrons), NAIDOC and Reconciliation Weeks, ANZAC Day and the key Christian celebrations of Easter and Christmas.

Connections are regularly made with St Mary’s Parish in Kingaroy and, to a lesser extent, all other Catholic parishes from which our students come. Sacramental programs in these parishes are promoted and supported. The College has a fortnightly Mass before school for staff and students and once a month the College runs the weekend Parish Mass.

**Religious Education Program**

Students are offered a Religious Education program that has been developed by Brisbane Catholic Education and endorsed by Archbishop Mark Coleridge. Classroom learning and teaching of Religion is designed to complement the religious life of the school by challenging students to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to develop religious literacy in the Catholic tradition and in broader Christian tradition so they can participate critically and authentically in faith contexts and wider society.

Students in Years 11 and 12 have the option of selecting Study of Religion, leading to an OP or Religion and Ethics.

**Prayer and Retreat Experiences**

Prayer is an integral feature of the faith life at the College. Regular opportunities are offered for students to gather in prayer. These include daily homeroom prayer, liturgical celebrations, observances and assembly prayer. Classes are invited to present our assembly prayers.

Each year, students in Year 6 to 11 are offered Reflection Days. These days enable students to reflect upon their spiritual and faith journeys. In Years 11 and 12, students take part in an extended Retreat and Leadership programs. Year 12 students are also offered the opportunity to take part in a voluntary Street Retreat in which they work with the homeless.

**Christianity in Action**

Students have many opportunities to put their Christian values in practice. Students can be involved in working with the elderly, at St Vincent de Paul or through doing a Street Retreat in Brisbane with the Claver Care Van. Each term the College focusses on a particular charity or community to raise awareness and goods or funds. Our major beneficiaries have been CARITAS Australia; Bacolod Kindergarten - our sister school in the Philippines; the Saint Mary’s Centacare Winter Appeal; and St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.
Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is central to our College’s commitment to meeting the personal and social needs of all members of the College community. As a community, we endeavour to live St Benedict’s call to hospitality, to “listen with the ear of the heart” and to live up to our five Benedictine values.

Our pastoral approach is based on the principles of the School Wide Positive Behaviour Program which aims to recognise positive behaviour as well as challenge negative or inappropriate behaviour.

Positive behaviour is recognised through: our College’s Benedictine Awards, Gotcha tokens for P-6 students and Recognition Certificates for Years 7–12.

Negative behaviour is challenged and dealt with as appropriate to the child’s age, developmental and specific situation.

Along with the College’s Deputy Principal, a number of other Pastoral Staff assist the Principal in caring for our student’s needs, including:

**Pastoral Care Coordinators**
The College pastoral care program is organised and coordinated by the P-6, Middle and Senior School Pastoral Coordinators who along with the class and homeroom teachers oversee the pastoral care of their students.

**Guidance and Counselling**
Additional support is offered to all students and their families at Saint Mary’s Catholic College through access to the Guidance Counsellor. This role is designed to assist all students through a range of issues including personal and family issues, career guidance, behavioural and learning difficulties. The Guidance Counsellor is also available to administer appropriate psycho-educational assessment where required.

**Campus Minister**
The College has an appointed Campus Minister to assist and support students in their personal and spiritual journey towards adulthood.

**Learning Support**
Saint Mary’s Learning Support Team which is made up of a Support Teacher Inclusive Education and School Officers aims to assist all students, but especially those students in need of learning assistance. Specific programs and plans, in consultation with parents/carers, are developed to address these needs.

**Indigenous Education Support Worker**
Saint Mary’s has an Indigenous Education Support worker to work closely with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their families and to promote a spirit of reconciliation throughout our entire College community.

**English as a Second Language Teacher**
The College’s ESL teacher supports the educational needs of students from whom English is their second language.

**Career and Employment Transitions Coach**
The College’s Career and Employment Transitions Coach works especially with students with disabilities and those “at risk” to ensure that they meet their career and employment goals.
Saint Mary’s Catholic College has a Learning Support Team whose role is to support school staff to ensure that appropriate educational opportunities are available for all students. The team, led by the Support Teacher Inclusive Education (STIE), consists of a Guidance and Counselling Officer, a number of School Officers.

This team provides in-class support and a variety of individual and group programs to promote the educational, social and emotional development of students.

Assistance is provided in the following ways:

- Identification of children in need of assistance by means of screening programmes and teacher consultation. Diagnostic tests may then be administered to determine specific areas of learning difficulty. The STIE liaises with parents and specialists, and provides referrals to support agencies when necessary.

- Intervention may be carried out by means of specific programmes developed for classroom use or, where appropriate, through individual or small group work with the support teacher or with trained teacher aides.

The Learning Support Team have a wide range of resources to assist in planning programmes for all students.

Special Enrolment Process:
There are some students who have very specific learning needs who require accommodations and modifications to classroom programmes. Saint Mary’s Catholic College follows the Brisbane Catholic Education Special Enrolment process for children with clearly defined special educational needs.
Learning & Teaching

We are a learning community with an approach to learning and teaching that focuses on being:

- **Student-Centred**: our learning community nurtures and supports student diversity and seeks to integrate equity through authentic partnerships based on faith and culture within and beyond school.

- **Dynamic**: facilitating meaningful and vibrant learning experiences for our students, which incorporate intellectual quality, creativity and the ability to shape their future and contribute to a vibrant and inclusive Australian society.

- **Life – long**: as a school community, we respect and engage in life-long learning. We seek to empower students with a commitment to personal excellence and skills that will empower them to contribute to their community.

Prep to Year 6

The College considers the Primary School years as the foundation for all future learning. It is the aim of the College to assist each child to reach their full potential. Active, challenging and engaging classroom environments encourage students to develop ownership of their learning.

Saint Mary’s Catholic College focuses on establishing a supportive environment that fosters a love of learning. This is achieved through focussing on the specific needs of each student and the way they learn. In Prep, attention is given to supporting students transition smoothly from home or Kindy to school.

Students in Prep to Year 6 are challenged to develop a love of learning through exploring learning experiences based on Australian Curriculum subject areas - English, Mathematics, Science, History and Geography and other key subject areas - Religious Education, The Arts, Technology and HPE. Literacy and Numeracy are a major focus across these year levels.

Year 7 to Year 10

The curriculum in this phase of learning seeks to recognise and cater for the different stages of development students are experiencing and help prepare them for a rapidly changing society, providing them with those skills and knowledge which will equip them to be a valuable part of society. The academic emphasis within this area is for students to achieve their personal best whilst nurturing and fostering the development of the whole person.

All subjects in Years 7 - 8 are compulsory

- Religious Education
- English
- History
- Geography
- Mathematics
- Science
- Health and Physical Education (including Sport and Personal Development)
Years 9 - 10 Compulsory subjects
- English
- History
- Geography
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Education
- Health and Physical Education (including Sport and Personal Development)

Year 9 Elective subjects
- Home Economics
- Visual Art
- Indonesian
- Graphics
- Music
- Metalwork and Woodwork
- Dance and Drama

Year 10 Elective subjects
- Visual Art
- Dance
- Music
- Business Studies
- Graphics
- Wood Furnishing
- Hospitality
- Indonesian

Year 11 and Year 12
Students moving into this phase of learning are offered a wide range of subject choices and access to an outstanding vocational educational program. The Senior Program is designed to allow students to foster their personal talents. The program is designed to enable students to make informed choices from the multiple pathways available beyond school.

Students are guided and supported in designing their course of studies.

College Electives
1. Study of Religion
2. Religion and Ethics*
3. English
4. English Communication*
5. Mathematics A
6. Mathematics B
7. Mathematics C
8. Pre-Vocational Mathematics
9. Physics
10. Biology
11. Chemistry
12. School of Distance Education
13. Modern History
14. Drama
15. Dance
16. Visual Art / Fine Art*
17. Business Communication and Technology
18. Physical Education
19. Graphics / Industrial Graphics*
20. Music / Music Studies*
21. Indonesian
22. Legal Studies
23. Engineering (Cert I)*
24. Wood Furnishing (Cert I)*
25. Trade Skills - Construction, Automotive, Wood and Metal Work*

In addition to these subject choices, students have access for TAFE based courses such as Hospitality and Engineering.

School-based Apprenticeships and Traineeships.
Students are offered opportunities to access school-based apprenticeships and traineeships. This allows students to use a portion of their school time to work with an employer as paid employees while studying for their senior certificate. As the same time, students undertake a training qualification with a registered training organisation.
Indigenous Education

Our College’s indigenous Education Department includes Indigenous Education Support Officer and a Literacy and Numeracy Support Teacher. Our department’s staff work with all staff to ensure the best educational and career opportunities for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. We also work closely with Indigenous families, the Cherbourg community and other community organisations.

Various strategies and programs have been implemented throughout the school year, to enable and encourage the following:

- Sharing the message of reconciliation with all students
- A smooth transition to school for children in the early years
- Greater engagement of parents, family and the wider community, and greater awareness of the benefits of education
- Implement individual Learning Profiles to assist student assessment and monitoring
- High rates of student satisfaction and regular school attendance
- Implemented measures to assess individual student progress in ways that are culturally and developmentally sensitive
- Continually improved literacy and numeracy outcomes, with the individual assistance form our Literacy and Numeracy Coach
- Developed individual Pathway Plans to enable a smooth transition from school to the workforce

The vision is that all of our students both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students at Saint Mary’s Catholic College work together in a true spirit of reconciliation.

Our College Community organises many activities and celebrations including:

- NAIDOC Day & Reconciliation Week Celebrations
- FOGS Careers Expo
- BCE Indigenous Graduation Liturgy
- Indigenous Parent BBQs & forums
- Cultural Camps at Barambah Environmental Education Centre
- QATSIF Scholarships
- ACICC Scholarships
- Aunty Daisy Carlo Deadliest Achievement Award
- ANZAC Day parades at Murgon and Cherbourg
- Deadly Ears Health Van Visits
- End of Year Indigenous Graduation ceremonies
Music

Music Education Opportunities
Saint Mary’s Catholic College prides itself on the successes and experience of its students through its Music program. The college views Music as an integral part of the curriculum, offering it as an academic subject to all year levels.

Classroom Music Program
All students in classes Prep to Year 8 participate in a structured music program. Students are given opportunities to perform on instruments such as voice, piano, guitar, drum kit and many more throughout the sequential program offered at Saint Mary’s.

Instrumental Music Program

Year 3 String Immersion Program
In addition to the regular classroom music program, all Year 3 students are involved in the instrumental music program through weekly lessons on the violin. Students are issued with a violin for the year at no additional charge and are responsible for its safe care throughout the year. Students also have the option of continuing tuition at the school using the hired instrument in the following years.

Private Tuition
Students are also able to receive tuition on instruments including strings, woodwind, drums, guitar and keyboard in either individual or group lessons with our specialist instrumental teachers. Details are available through the College.

Instrumental Groups
Students who have been learning an instrument for some time are invited to join the College’s String Ensemble, Liturgy Group (who perform at College Masses and Liturgies) or the School Choir. These groups are privileged to have a number of opportunities to perform as ensembles to enhance activities. These include lunchtime concerts, Eisteddfods, Religious Celebrations, Liturgies and other events.
Co-Curricula Program

Saint Mary’s has an extensive co-curricular program to support the holistic development of its students. Just a few of our current co-curricular offerings are:

Performing Arts
- Rock on Stage evening
- Local and Regional Eisteddfods
- Play and performance evenings
- Visiting cultural performances
- College Art Show
- String Ensemble
- Individual and Group music tuition
- College Choir

Active After Schools Program
Variety of programs and experiences available
Two afternoons a week for Prep - Year 6

Sports Program
Representative Sports including:
- Cross Country
- Rugby League
- Touch Football
- Rugby Union
- Basketball
- Swimming
- Athletics
- Netball
- Soccer
- Equestrian Team
- Futsal

Academic Pursuits
- ICAS Competitions (Science, Spelling, Writing,
  Maths, English, Computer Skills)
- Australian Informatics
- Competition
- Australian Maths Competition
- RACI National Chemistry Quiz
- RACI Titration Competition
- Chess Program

Social
- Movie Nights
- Campfire Book Week Night

Community Service and Committees
- St Vincent de Paul School Conference
- Duke of Edinburgh award
- Red Shield Appeal
- Student Representative Council
  - Faith and Community Committee
  - Citizenship and Culture Committee
- Street Retreat Experience
- Bacolod Kindergarten Appeal
- Centrecare Winter Appeal
- St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal
- Caritas Appeal
Bursaries

Good Samaritan Bursaries
The bursaries are designed to support the additional expenses associated with travel to the College and is awarded to the student who best demonstrates Good Samaritan qualities e.g. Community involvement, Christian living, application to study. Other factors such as financial hardship, distance and family circumstances will also be taken into consideration.

The value of each bursary is intended to offset the annual tuition fees, and is determined on the basis of financial need.

Four bursaries are awarded on an annual basis:
Year 8 and Year 11 Bursary for students who reside in the Nanango, Yarraman and Blackbutt districts

Year 8 and Year 11 Bursary for students who reside in the Wondai, Murgon and Cherbourg districts

The Years 8 Bursaries are valued at 1/2 the cost of the Year 8 tuition fees each, over the three years of the Bursary.

The Years 11 Bursaries are valued at 1/2 the cost of the Year 11 tuition fees each, over the two years of the Bursary.

Music Bursary
The Music Bursary encourages students across the College to access personal musical tuition through one of the many tutors currently based at the College. Two Music Bursaries are to be offered annually to students attending Saint Mary’s Catholic College. One bursary will be offered to a student in Prep to Year 5 whilst the second bursary is offered to a student from Year 6 to 12.

These bursaries are designed to support and encourage students in their individual pursuit of their musical talent and is directed solely towards supplementing the cost of tuition.

Each bursary is to the value of $250.00 as is for the period of one school year only. All applications will be reviewed by a team and each considered on their individual merit, family circumstances and financial hardship.

Applications for Bursaries are available at the College Office at the end of Term 3 and close at the end of Week 4 in Term 4. Successful applicants are notified by mail and announced at the College Annual Presentation Ceremony.
Partnerships

Saint Mary’s Catholic College recognises the important Benedictine values of hospitality and building a spirit of community. We seek to encourage parent and carer involvement in our community as we recognise that our parents and carers are the prime educators of their children.

College Board
The College Board assists and supports the school with pastoral planning and discernment in the areas of policy development, provision and maintenance of school buildings and plant, budgeting, communication and curriculum. Participation in the College Board is via invitation.

Parents and Friends Association
The Parents and Friends Association (P & F) offers all parents an opportunity to be actively involved in the life of the College. The P & F aims to achieve a high level of collaborative interaction between home and school, and to work closely with the Principal to achieve the goals of the College. Income is derived from a P & F levy which is deemed to be the most fair and equitable method of collecting funds. Such funds are used to provide the College with additional resources and facilities.

P & F meetings are held at the College on the third Tuesday of each month and parents / carers are encouraged to attend. Each parent / carer can contribute through the P & F in areas suited to their interests, skills and availability. In addition to roles as committee members, willing helpers are always most welcome at working bees, social events and other College and P & F activities.

Parent Volunteer Program
Volunteers are essential to the life of the College. Many and varied skills are utilised in a variety of ways, including:

- Working in partnership with teachers to enhance learning programs.
- Assisting in the Tuckshop
- Helping with primary classroom activities.
- Assisting with specialist subjects including Art, Dance, Drama and Home Economics.
- Assisting at sporting and other events.
- Helping to organise our College reading program.
- Providing support in the College’s Resource Centre.
Enrolment Policy

RATIONALE
Saint Mary’s Catholic College offers education within the Catholic tradition with a specific focus given to the traditions of the Good Samaritan Sisters. It is intended that through the educational experience, the College seeks to renew and empower students, staff and parents in the ministry of the Church. The Catholic education offered to those enrolled at Saint Mary’s Catholic College is intended to complement and support the role of the Catholic Church community of the South Burnett. The College acknowledges the value of the partnership with parents/carers who are the first educators of their children. The Benedictine values of justice, equity and dignity underpin the mission of the College and every aspect of College life. We seek to be a Catholic College where all members of the community are invited to grow in their knowledge and love of God and embrace the Gospel.

It is intended that these guidelines provide a transparent and consistent reference point of both those seeking enrolment and those responsible for enrolment at the College.

PRINCIPLES
1. Enrolment at Saint Mary’s Catholic College involves an application and enrolment process. The College recognises and celebrates the uniqueness of each student and is committed to meeting the diversity of strengths and needs of students.
2. In selecting students for enrolment, primary consideration will be given to Catholic children of St Mary’s Kingaroy Parish families for Prep to Year 7 classes and children from the local Catholic communities for students seeking education in the Middle and Senior phases.
3. Priority for the remaining vacancies will be given to:
   a) siblings of students currently enrolled at the College
   b) Catholic children transferring from other Catholic schools
   c) non-Catholic children whose families express a genuine desire to be part of the College community.
4. In living the partnership commitment with parents/carers, the College expects that all parents/carers will be actively involved in their child’s education. This involvement may take a variety of forms.
5. Acceptance of an application form will not guarantee an enrolment interview or an offer of enrolment.
6. Parents/carers will be required to declare that to the best of their knowledge they have:
   a) disclosed any special needs of the prospective student, including learning, medical or psychological
   b) provided a copy of any parenting or restraint order that applies to the prospective student.
7. If a parent/carer deliberately withholds information relevant to the application process, the Principal reserves the right, in consultation with Brisbane Catholic Education, to refuse or terminate the enrolment.
8. It is expected that the enrolling parents/carers formally accept the responsibility for the payment of all school fees. Where this commitment would cause personal difficulty for the enrolling family, it is expected that this be clarified at the time of enrolment. It is noted that children are not refused enrolment on the basis of not being able to address this commitment.
9. On acceptance of a place at Saint Mary’s Catholic College, parents/carers are deemed to have accepted the College’s values and expectations and to endorse and support them.
The decision on whether a student is to be enrolled will ideally be made in partnership with the parents/carers based on the College’s ability to cater for the student’s needs. The final decision in matters of enrolment rests with the Principal.