



School Prospectus

St Mary's Catholic School Wellington



Acknowledgement of Country

St Mary's would like to acknowledge the Wiradjuri people who are the Traditional Custodians of the Land that our school grounds are built upon.

We pay respect to their Elders, celebrate their continuing culture and acknowledge the memory of their ancestors.



Principal's Welcome

'Present, Personal, Embracing'

To be present throughout the journey of your child's education is a privilege that we embrace at St Mary's Catholic School, Wellington.

When we meet our Little Saints, launching into their exciting journey of formal learning, we are filled with hope that each child will grow to realise their potential. Our students have the opportunity to complete their schooling from Preschool to Year 10 in a family focused, inclusive environment.

St Mary's offers personalised learning for every child, fostering opportunities for growth in a wide range of social, academic, sport and cultural areas. We strive to ensure that each child achieves their potential by offering personalised learning through carefully structured, flexible learning groups in English and Mathematics which consolidate and build life-long learning skills.

As a small school, St Mary's is able to offer rich and varied opportunities for all students. Students are able to take on leadership and mentoring roles, school representation in cultural and sport events and develop long-lasting friendships across the school community. St Mary's is a culturally inclusive community proud of the local Wiradjuri culture.

With faith as the focal point at St Mary's, we place high value on the moral and social development of every child and embrace the inclusion and involvement of our families in both faith development and learning. We pride ourselves in the way that we work with families to develop life-long learners who are compassionate and caring. Every child is noticed, known and affirmed in a loving, caring, Christ-centred environment. It is our hope that after leaving St Mary's, our students will continue to have a positive impact on the world and those around them.

Mrs Leanne Clarke

Principal

St Mary's Catholic School Prayer

God Bless St Mary's School,

Bless the children and the staff.

Let love and peace dwell among us.

Let our school be full of contentment.

Incline our hearts to be obedient and eager to learn.

O Mother of God, watch over us.

Grant us a steady hand and a watchful eye.

Teach us the beauty of the world

So that we may, with joy and courtesy,

Go life's happy way.

Amen



Our Vision & Mission

Virtus Sola Nobilitat

'Only goodness makes you noble'

Our Vision

St Mary's Catholic School is a Christ centred, inclusive community where individuals are supported to learn at high levels and to grow spiritually, socially and physically.

"We have gifts that differ, according to the grace given to each of us."
(Romans 12:6)



Our Mission

Develop a Rich and Authentic Catholic Community

- Develop an understanding and practice of our Catholic traditions.
- Be a community that acknowledges and respects the traditions of our Mercy heritage and Wiradjuri culture.
- Proclaim and live the Gospel values of Jesus.
- Recognise Christ in each individual by implementing the Positive Behaviour for Learning framework.
- Provide students with a wide variety of physical activities in a safe, secure and stimulating environment.
- Model and build positive relationships within our school, parish and the wider Wellington community.



Provide Quality Learning and Teaching

- Provide a contemporary and flexible learning environment, facilitating engagement and meeting the needs of all students.
- Provide opportunities for teamwork and collaboration for students and teachers.
- Continually strive for excellence, setting high standards of learning for all.
- Promote personalised learning through high quality teaching, in which students reflect upon their learning and set goals in order to reach their potential.



School Prospectus 2023

CONTENTS

Introduction	6
Wellington	6
Religious Education	7
Teaching and Learning at St Mary's	8
Little Saints Program	10
Kindergarten to Year Two	10
Year Three to Year Six	11
Year Seven to Year Ten	11
Learning Enrichment	12
Student Well-Being	12
Cultural Awareness	13
Transition Programs	13
Co-curricular Activities	13
Sporting Pathways	13
Community Service	13
Mobile Phones	14
Enrolment Procedures	14
Enrolment Policy	14
School Fees	15
Catherine McAuley Bursary	15
Who is Eligible?	15
Facilities & Resources	16
Contact Us	17
School Map	18



Introduction

St Mary's Catholic School is situated in the town of Wellington which has a long history of Catholic Education with its first Catholic School opened in 1862 by a lay teacher. In 1883 the Sisters of Mercy took over the school and had a presence in the school until 1999. St Mary's is a co-educational Catholic School, catering for students from Preschool to Year 10. At the completion of Year 10, students have the choice of progressing to St Johns College in Dubbo, Wellington High School, boarding school or entering the workforce.

The school is administered by Catholic Education Diocese of Bathurst, on behalf of the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Bathurst. The Executive Director of Education is responsible for managing the schools across the Diocese. The school is registered with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA), ensuring that mandatory requirements are being met. St Mary's Catholic School is part of the Catholic Parish of Wellington and is adjacent to St Patrick's Church. The Parish Priest has a canonical responsibility for the care of the entire parish. The Principal works in conjunction with the Parish Priest and is responsible for the effective operation of the school.

Wellington

Wellington is a country town in the Central West of NSW. It is approximately 50km south of Dubbo and 100km north of Orange, both of which are cities of over 35,000 people. The Wiradjuri people have inhabited the Wellington region for tens of thousands of years and the Wiradjuri culture is valued and celebrated. The township of Wellington was formed as a convict settlement in 1823, which it remained until 1831. Settlement of the Wellington Valley and surrounding areas increased rapidly from 1834. The village of Montefiores was laid out in 1840, while the village of Wellington was proclaimed in 1846. Gold was mined in the region from 1849.





Religious Education

St Mary's Catholic School prides itself on a tradition of strong, Catholic identity. The school preserves and fosters an understanding and practice of our Catholic tradition through formal Religious Education lessons, the integration of Christian values into all areas and the encouragement to live full Christian lives. Liturgy and prayer are important in the St Mary's Catholic community. The students' spiritual development is a shared responsibility between the Parish Priest, Principal, staff and parents. Students from Kindergarten to Year 10 participate in Religious Education classes.

Our close proximity to St Patrick's Church provides numerous opportunities for students at St Mary's to participate in liturgical events celebrated during the year. These events include the beginning of school Mass, Lent, St Patrick's Day, Easter, Advent, NAIDOC, Mercy Day, and Year 10 Graduation Mass. Families are welcome to attend school masses, liturgies and special religious ceremonies.

Students in Years 6, 7 and 10 participate in retreat day(s). Year 6 participates in a Christian Living Camp in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. These students are given the opportunity to further develop their own faith and to gain an appreciation of the gifts provided by the Holy Spirit. Year 7 students participate in a retreat. This aims to strengthen the ties between classmates. Year 10's retreat fosters friendships and spiritual development. This time is highly valued by students as an occasion to reflect upon their beliefs and to share their gifts and talents.

The school and the parish work together to provide high quality sacramental programs for Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.





Teaching & Learning at St Mary's

St Mary's Catholic School is a Professional Learning Community (PLC). Our educators work in collaborative teams and focus on the following three big ideas:

- Focus on learning rather than teaching
- Work collaboratively on matters related to learning
- Hold themselves accountable for the kinds of results that fuel continual improvement

St Mary's has a highly skilled and dedicated team of teachers and support staff, who provide quality teaching and engaging learning experiences for students in addition to supporting students individually with personalised programs.

Stages of Learning

St Mary's follows the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) curriculum, based on stages of learning. Each stage is approximately equivalent to two school years. For each learning stage there are skills, knowledge and a level of understanding that each student should develop.

Early Stage 1 Kindergarten	Stage 1 Years 1 & 2	Stage 2 Years 3 & 4
Stage 3 Years 5 & 6	Stage 4 Years 7 & 8	Stage 5 Years 9 & 10



The Kindergarten to Year 10 curriculum is divided into Key Learning Areas (KLAs) and meets the guidelines within the NSW Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum. Teachers meet weekly to identify essential learning in Key Learning Areas and use regular assessments to gather data on individual student learning needs.

There are seven Key Learning Areas in the Kindergarten to Year 6 Catholic School Curriculum in NSW.

- **Religious Education**
- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science (Incorporating Science and Technology)**
- **Creative Arts**
- **Personal Development, Health and Physical Education**
- **History/Geography**

In English and Mathematics the students are grouped into flexible learning groups which are tailored towards their learning needs.

The Year 7 to Year 10 Curriculum places emphasis on the following core Learning Areas.

- **Religious Education**
- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **History**
- **Geography**
- **Creative Arts/Music**
- **Personal Development, Health and Physical Education**

Students will have the opportunity to study elective courses during Year 9 and Year 10.

During Year 7 and Year 8, interest classes give students the opportunity to try a range of activities that prepare them for Stage 5 electives.

Students have the option of studying a single course for 2 years or a separate course each year. The number of electives will depend on timetabling options and the duration of the course chosen.

The following elective courses are offered to students in Stage 5 as part of their pattern of study. Most are offered as either 1 or 2 year courses either on site or through Distance Education.

- **Agriculture**
- **Commerce**
- **Drama**
- **Food Technology**
- **History Elective**
- **Hospitality (VET)**
- **Industrial Technology - Timber**
- **Information Software Technology**
- **Languages**
- **Music**
- **Photography**
- **Physical Activity and Sport Science**
- **Textiles Technology**
- **Visual Arts**



Little Saints Playgroup and Transition Program

The St Mary's Little Saints Program is designed to enable children to smoothly transition into school and gives educators the opportunity to assess school readiness for each child. During terms 1-3 our Little Saints are involved in a playgroup setting in the school environment, including participation in some school activities and celebrations. During term 4 the program becomes a transition to school program where children are involved in more structured learning experiences to develop confidence, school readiness and familiarity with the school environment. The program enables each child to transition smoothly into Kindergarten with ease and success. The Little Saints Program is available for all children who are 4 years old by 31 March of the year they attend the program. School buses are available for transportation. There is no obligation to enrol at St Mary's Catholic School.

Kindergarten to Year 2



The K-2 program focuses on the embedding of literacy and numeracy skills for students, ensuring that essential learning skills are mastered, ensuring future success in learning. All Kindergarten students commence the year participating in our "Ready to Learn" program which focuses on school readiness skills. Students learn through child-centred, explicit and exploratory experiences, engaging in high-quality programs. Students are regularly assessed and placed in flexible learning groups for English and Mathematics to enable personalised learning.

Opportunities are available for students in a variety of areas through participation in school productions, Eisteddfods and local community events throughout the year. Each year students participate in local excursions and access school incursions focused on identified curriculum needs.

Year 3 to Year 6



The Year 3-6 program focuses on providing a quality learning experience for every student. There is a focus on building on the foundation of the K-2 school years and actively nurturing the creativity and critical thinking skills required for developing independent learning skills. While core learning occurs in Year levels, there are opportunities for students to share experiences in sport, co curricular activities and cultural activities. These include participation in school productions, Eisteddfods and local community events throughout the year. Integrated learning is explored where some Key Learning Areas are combined, enabling students to actively develop skills that enable them to work with others to locate, gather, analyse, critique and apply information, and deepen their knowledge and understanding. Outdoor education programs and overnight retreats are available for students to attend.

Year 7 to Year 10



Year 7 to Year 10 provides an environment where students learn to take more responsibility for their learning under the guidance of their teachers. Working with teachers experienced in their specific curriculum area, students are encouraged to work collaboratively and are encouraged to pursue personal areas of interest in their learning. In addition to core subjects, students access electives to further refine and develop their skill set. Students build personal goals to assist in supporting them to explore career pathways and are given the opportunity to participate in work experience in Year 9 and Year 10. Trade based and academic pathways are explored with students. Local agencies support students to gain their White Card and CPR qualifications. Excursions involve overnight retreats and opportunities for students to travel to other centres for cultural and sporting experiences.





Learning Enrichment

Our highly trained Learning Enrichment staff assist those students who require support in developmental areas. This usually occurs in a small group setting, according to the needs of the individual student. Likewise, teaching staff modify and enrich teaching and learning programs to facilitate independent learning and, where appropriate, develop an Individual Plan which specifically meets the needs of the student. Programs include Multilit, Quicksmart and MiniLit. Students are accelerated beyond their stage groups in English and Mathematics as identified to meet targeted learning needs. Students in Kindergarten are assessed in a range of tasks to establish their learning needs upon entry to the school. Students are regularly monitored throughout their education and receive specialist support as required.

Student Well-Being

At St Mary's we prioritise the physical and emotional needs of our students. Families are able to access a school counsellor who is on site two days a week. In addition to this, our Kindergarten to Year 6 students participate in programs where they build relational trust and develop social skills. Students in Year 7 to Year 10 are involved in daily pastoral care sessions focusing on the skills of healing, sustaining, guiding, reconciling and nurturing. Pastoral care teachers mentor students and work through issues and concerns arising in the context of daily interactions at school.

Cultural Awareness

St Mary's has a full time Aboriginal Education Worker (AEW). We value having an Indigenous person to work in partnership with our Indigenous students, non-Indigenous students, staff and families. The school offers a vast array of support that will enhance the individual performance of our Indigenous students and enables all students to develop acceptance and tolerance of all people and cultures. The relationship that develops between the AEW and students continues beyond the school and into the community. Support for Indigenous students includes:

- Assistance with classwork, assessment tasks and homework
- The opportunity to learn elements of the Wiradjuri language

- Incorporation of Aboriginal perspectives in all Key Learning Areas
- Learning about the importance and meaning of culture

Transition Programs

During Term 4 St Mary's facilitates a Transition to School Program for any child who is eligible to start Kindergarten the following year. Experienced early childhood educators assess each child's school readiness. The program includes early reading and numeracy activities, creative arts and perceptual motor activities.

Middle school information sessions are held mid-year, followed by opportunities for Year 3 - Year 6 students to explore specialist learning areas available in the Secondary school years. In Terms 3 and 4 students in Year 6 are involved in transition programs, developing readiness for their journey into Year 7 at St Mary's.

Co-curricular Activities

St Mary's offers a variety of co-curricular programs including:

School performances, mock trial, touch football training sessions, homework centre, art club, chess competitions, art competitions, the Wellington Eisteddfod and cattle showing.

Sporting Pathways

All students at St Mary's are encouraged to participate in our school swimming and athletics carnivals, gala days in a variety of sports, cross country and inter-school competitions. Students in Year 2 - Year 10 are placed in sports houses (Xavier, Patrick, Dominic).

Opportunities are also available for students at St Mary's to access sporting pathways. Sports include tennis, basketball, softball, swimming, netball, athletics, touch football, rugby union, rugby league and cricket. Participation in summer and winter sport trials for Bathurst Diocesan teams can lead to selection at higher levels, including NSW Combined Catholic Colleges (CCC) teams.

Community Service

St Mary's is involved in a number of community service areas:

St Vincent de Paul Appeals, money raising events for Caritas, intergenerational visits to Maranatha Aged Care, fundraising and provision of monetary support for various charities identified by the Student Representative Council and the Caring St Mary's student group.

Mobile Phones

At St Mary's the Mobile Phone Policy states that student access to personal mobile phones at school is limited. Students in Kindergarten to Year 6 are not permitted to have a mobile phone at school, unless this is requested by their family. In this instance the phone must be left at the school office for the duration of the school day. Students in Year 7 to Year 10 have their phones stored in a phone locker during pastoral care each morning and phones are collected at the end of the school day.

Students who need to contact family members do so through the school office. Families can also contact students through the office during the day.



Enrolment Procedure

The procedure for enrolling a child at St Mary's Catholic School is as follows:

- Contact the school to receive an enrolment package and tour of the school.
- Complete and return the application form for enrolment to the school office, with all required documents.
- Arrange a time for a meeting to confirm your enrolment.

Kindergarten enrolments are generally called for during Term 3. Any child enrolling in Kindergarten is to be 5 years old by 31 March of their Kindergarten year.

Applications for enrolment in other years should be accompanied by the latest school report from the current school and any other relevant personal and academic information.

Enrolment Policy

The families are expected to be sympathetic to and supportive of the Catholic Faith and the ethos of the Catholic School. A detailed enrolment policy is available on the school website.



School Fees

The Diocese of Bathurst sets the school fee structure. There is a School Fee and the Diocesan Capital Works Levy. School fees assist the school with daily running costs, including texts and resources, photocopying, ancillary staff salaries, grounds and maintenance and cleaning. A discount is available when more than one child is enrolled in the school.

All families enrolling children at St Mary's Catholic School undertake to pay the specified school fees and to contribute where possible in some way to school activities.

Catherine McAuley Bursary

The Catherine McAuley Bursary provides financial support to eligible families to reduce the cost of school fees and the Diocesan Capital Works Levy and makes Catholic education accessible at St Mary's Catholic School Wellington. The bursary is designed to provide short and long term financial assistance to families who are experiencing financial challenges.

Who is eligible?

The Catherine McAuley Bursary is for families intending to enroll or currently enrolled at St Mary's Catholic School. Criteria to be considered when awarding the Bursary are:

- The commitment of the family to support all school policies and their child's education.
- The commitment of the family to support the Catholic basis of the school.
- The ability of the family to afford school fees.
- Aboriginality of the student (not essential).





Facilities and Resources

St Mary's is a well resourced school with modern facilities and resources, including:

- **Classroom screens, iPads and Chromebooks**
- **Computer laboratories**
- **Art, industrial technology and food technology rooms**
- **Science laboratory**
- **Enrichment Learning space**
- **Large oval and multi-purpose court space**
- **Aboriginal Education learning space**
- **Agriculture plot (garden and poultry penthouse)**
- **Sand pit, interactive play equipment and cubby house**
- **Library hub**
- **Infant de Prague hall, hospitality and music centre**
- **Early learning space**





Contact Us

We invite you to meet with us to take you on a tour of our school to allow you to experience the quality learning programs, resources, facilities, positive learning culture and opportunities that we have available for your child at St Mary's Catholic School Wellington.

Looking forward to meeting with you to explore the options and opportunities that St Mary's offers your family.

Mrs Leanne Clarke
Principal



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WELLINGTON

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St Mary's School Map - 2020

