



ST ALOYSIUS
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Queenscliff

ENROLMENT PROSPECTUS

Let Your Light Shine



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“The children at this school are respectful, friendly and welcoming. This school teaches good values to the students”

PARENT



Message from the Principal

Welcome to St Aloysius Catholic Primary School and thank you for taking the time to consider our wonderful school for your child's learning journey.

At St Aloysius, we are proud of our students, as they grow and develop, with a high-quality education that equips them with the spiritual foundations, knowledge, skills and attributes that they need to participate in and contribute to society.

At St Aloysius we place much emphasis on Wellbeing within a framework of Positive Psychology in Education which goes far beyond our traditional Pastoral Care model. We strongly believe that the future of our students depends upon what we do today.

At St Aloysius Primary School our focus on sustainability recognises the interconnectedness and interdependence of life on our planet and acknowledges that we are responsible for each other and the earth, our common home. As the only Catholic school in the Borough of Queenscliff, we understand that living and working in our environment develops in us, an obligation to act in a way that ensures future generations can live sustainably on our planet Earth.

In 2022 with the guidance of Project Thrive using design and systems thinking, our staff and wider community embarked on a journey of the application of positive psychology and wellbeing science in our educational setting with an aim to increase the well-being and resilience of our students and community. This strategic plan guides our well-being practices and builds on all the work that has been done over a number of years by many contributors at St Aloysius. Over the 3+ years the St Aloysius staff, and community have identified nine goals we will work towards achieving:

- Build staff and community capabilities
- Continue building a positive school community
- Define and measure well-being
- Develop resilience
- Develop clear behaviour management guidelines
- Foster collaboration and cooperation
- Develop a whole school approach to organisational change models
- Develop a social and emotional learning scope and sequence
- Develop a prevention and intervention approach for mental health and illness

We are committed to our vision for well-being at St Aloysius: we are a faith filled learning community where all individuals are given every opportunity to flourish.

Our School Vision

At St Aloysius, we recognise the right of each child to a complete education and therefore the curriculum of our school fosters the total development of each child: spiritually; academically; aesthetically; emotionally; socially; culturally and physically

Our staff members strive to be a faith-filled, dynamic community who proclaim the mission of Jesus. We believe it is essential that we aim to promote the self-esteem of others and that we assist children to feel positive about the future.

Our school works within the Parish of Holy Trinity to develop a mutual awareness of what it means to be a member of a Catholic community. To make this work we have cooperation between the school staff, students, families and members of our Parish.



Mission

- To develop in children an awareness and appreciation of the environment in which they live and respect for it as part of God's creation.
- To develop an appreciation of education as a lifelong process that enables individuals to adapt in a rapidly changing technological society.
- That through education one develops an understanding of self, others, our society and the world in which we live.
- To assist students to develop skills, attitudes, values and actions which will support them in becoming valued effective members of our society.
- To cultivate an environment where children, parents and staff grow together in a Catholic community. To have time for reflection so the Spirit of God can be seen in action.
- To endeavour to show each child that they are special and individually loved for whom they are.
- To foster a spirit of acceptance, appreciation, sharing and friendly cooperation with all others in our school community. Our school strives to be a happy place where people respect and support each other.
- To facilitate the professional development of staff, who can then use these new ideas for the benefit of our children.

- To facilitate a relationship between staff and parents so that parents too can understand the changes that are taking place in the education process.
- To provide a variety of experiences that encourage children to participate and extend their abilities.
- To build and expand the experience of our children so that each comes to a fuller realization of belonging to a faith and wider community.



“I am impressed with the respect, care and attention the teachers give to all children, acknowledging the diverse needs of each child and adapting programs to individuals”

PARENT

Our Goals

At St Aloysius Catholic Primary School, we are working to Let Our Light Shine through:

Learning and Teaching

Fostering an environment that supports and challenges students to be active, engaged co-creators in the learning process

Student Wellbeing

Enhancing the social and emotional wellbeing of all students so that they can flourish as members of the community



Education in Faith

Enhancing the Catholic faith formation and spiritual development of the whole school community

School Community

Enhancing student learning and student wellbeing through active partnership between St Aloysius School, families, parish and the wider community

Leadership and Management

Empowering staff to lead for enhanced student learning and wellbeing in partnership with parents



“The teachers are always looking at new and different ways to make learning fun”

PARENT



“I enjoy walking through the hallways at school – there is a real sense of calm as the students are highly engaged, working both independently and collaboratively”

PARENT

Learning and Teaching

While being very proud of its history the St Aloysius community is intent on providing the most contemporary and engaging learning and teaching programme for our students today and into the future.

Within the learning and teaching program, we have developed a strong base in **Literacy** and **Numeracy**. In recent years a significant focus has been placed on science and environmental science with a goal of instilling in our students a deep understanding of how our world works and to build upon their natural dispositions of inquiry. **Science** and **Environmental Sustainability** is a key focus within the learning and teaching programme with engagement with community organizations such as Parks Victoria, Coast Care, Deakin University and Community Environment Alliance a key to its success.

Our focus on **sustainability** recognises the interconnectedness and interdependence of life on our planet and acknowledges that we are responsible for each other and the earth, our common home. Being a Catholic school, we understand that our universe is a gift from God and that we have an obligation to act in a way that ensures future generations can live sustainably on our planet Earth. Our school is working to reduce our ecological footprint through adopting sustainable practises in our everyday lives.

Physical education and sport are important at St Aloysius. Our students are immersed in a Physical Education programme that exposes them to a wide range of sports through game-based learning and

sequential skill development. An athletics programme followed by a whole school carnival is held annually. An intense swimming programme is held annually.

The students from years 3 to 6 are given the opportunity to compete at interschool competitions in athletics, swimming, cross country, basketball, netball, cricket, AFL, soccer and tee ball. Outdoor education programmes such as the Marine Ranger's snorkelling and canoeing and bike education, give our students even further skills for long term lifestyle activity.

Student voice is encouraged through our **Inquiry focus** and student-led assemblies. **Student Leadership** is in the form of action teams who co-ordinate various activities for student involvement. The buddy program runs right through the school. The school captains are the school representatives and attend local community events regularly. The school strives to build a happy, harmonious learning environment that focuses on well-being, student outcomes, personalised learning and building positive relationships.

The students and staff from Prep to 6 are immersed in Auslan – Australian Sign Language and Deaf Culture daily. This program highlights our shared vision for supporting diversity.

Service to others is a key focus at St Aloysius. Our school takes great pride in contributing to our community through ANZAC Day, Vietnam Veterans day, Remembrance Day and the annual Queenscliff Music festival and the Queenscliff Literary Festival.



Literacy

At St Aloysius we are committed to supporting and developing the literacy skills of our students. Our structured Literacy blocks are tailored to build and enhance the oral language, writing and reading skills of all our students. We endeavour to use evidenced based instructional strategies that build on and use students' personal experiences as well as engaging their interests within each session.

Reading is a fundamental skill that we scaffold throughout the years of schooling, building on the body of evidence around the Science of Reading. It is supported in small group guided reading workshops which support the skill development of all children. As students move along in their schooling, we encourage independence in their learning where they are involved in literature circles and book discussions, challenging our students to develop comprehension skills.

Writing is supported throughout the literacy block and is incorporated throughout the sessions. We develop student's oral language skills in order to see this transfer into their writing. Students develop their understanding and knowledge of spelling patterns during this time and are supported using elements of the SMART spelling process to do this. Students are encouraged to use the components of the writing process to develop meaningful pieces. They are supported in small group writing workshops to develop key skills to enhance the work they produce. We use Little Learners Love Literacy and MacqLit as our evidenced based explicit teaching programs.

We understand the importance of student-centred learning and use a range of data and assessment to cater for this. We set high expectations for our students' achievement and allow our students to set personal learning goals. We endeavour to support students in 1:1 and small group sessions throughout their literacy journey.

Mathematics

At St Aloysius we believe that Mathematics has an integral role in students' lives. Therefore, we believe that active and effective participation in Australian society is dependent upon learners being numerate and able to apply mathematical thinking and skills in everyday life with confidence, understanding, purpose and enjoyment.

At St Aloysius we enhance the development of students' numeracy skills through actively engaging them in investigations. We aim to enable and extend our students to achieve personal success across all Mathematics areas. We place an emphasis on problem solving, finding patterns and making connections. Students are encouraged to apply skills to real life problems leading them to become independent thinkers.

We support our students in the development of algebraic thinking, number sense and understanding of mathematical procedures. Our lessons provide workshops with student specific purposes and through the use of concrete materials as support, students are challenged to extend their understandings.

Digital Technology



At St Aloysius, we believe that students are to be equipped to seize opportunities to broaden their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understandings to live in a changing, complex and interdependent digital world. For that reason, St Aloysius' encourages the learning to be enriched by strong connections with the broader community, effective communicating online and offline, collaborating locally and globally; being well equipped to be safe and responsible cyber citizens. We believe that this is best learnt in partnership with home, school and the wider community in

order for students to become effective cyber citizens. At St Aloysius we use Google Suite, internet and digital technologies as teaching and learning tools. Seesaw is a digital portfolio used by staff and students to capture learning which can be shared with family and friends.

STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics

Throughout their primary school years our students are immersed in a learning and teaching programme that works towards deepening their understanding of the world around them. STEAM is taught explicitly once a week from years Prep to 6 as well as within the context of investigative inquiries. Our students are encouraged to explore and make meaning of the world around them through experimentation, the collection of data and developing skills of observation. This understanding is deepened through investigations into the world of technology and how human intervention has affected our natural world.

Our students are embedded in programmes where they can appreciate their own natural environment. Sand dune restoration programmes, sustainability sessions at King Street Reserve aligning Swan Bay and local school-based sustainability programmes highlight the importance of sustaining our own local environment for future generations. St Aloysius is also involved in programmes such as Kids Teaching Kids which promotes individual and small group scientific investigations into our environment as well as making strong connections with local schools and community groups.



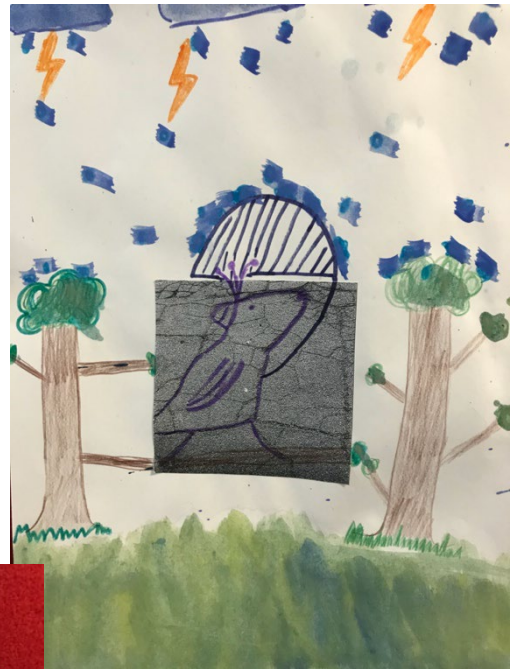
Performing Arts

Our Performing Arts program consists of weekly lessons covering Music, Dance and Drama. In Music and Dance our students are exposed to fundamental concepts such as beat, pitch and rhythm and are given the opportunity to develop their skills through a variety of activities using tuned instruments. The students are also given the opportunity to work with scripts, develop their knowledge of acting and build self confidence through our Drama lessons.

Each year our students work towards an end of year concert that showcases their creativity, script writing skills, costume making abilities, choreography talents and acting prowess. Our annual School Concert is held at the Queenscliff Town Hall and is an amazing, inclusive and joyful celebration of our whole school community.

Visual Arts

The Visual Arts are valued as a vital part of the curriculum, allowing students the opportunity to express themselves creatively, learn lifelong skills and demonstrate their learning in a unique manner. Students from Prep to Year 6 work with a variety of natural and man-made media to design and craft 2D and 3D forms. Students are exposed to a wide range of art produced by professional artists encompassing a variety of art styles including traditional and modern, realistic and abstract, indigenous and other world cultures. The St Aloysius Art Show is held every two years and showcases the skill development and imagination of all students from years Prep to year 6.





See our students shine



Student Wellbeing

We believe in promoting wellbeing and health and building resilience and adaptability in our students. Under the right conditions all people can thrive while having empathy and compassion for ourselves and other human beings is crucial and can be taught. We have worked with Project Thrive (www.projectthrive.com.au) for a number of years to implement our Student Wellbeing and Positive Education Program.

Lunch time groups offered throughout the year

- Craft club
- Games club
- Dance/drama
- Library
- Environmental group
- Italian

The lunch time clubs have been extremely well received by the students who attend in great numbers on a regular basis. These clubs offer students quiet, calm and passive play experiences and an alternative to outside play in a well-adjusted manner.

Other programmes such as the **Buddy Programme** have seen connections made between Prep and Grade 4, Grades 1, 3 and 5 and Grade 2 and 6. The program is recognized by staff and the community to enhance Student Wellbeing Program in general, particularly in regards to connectedness to school and connectedness to peers.



Education in Faith

An essential part of nurturing children in faith is the exploration of the teachings, traditions and beliefs of the Catholic Church.

The love of God, as expressed through the life of Jesus, is cause for celebration by the whole school and the community of Holy Trinity Parish. The Eucharist is the centre of our faith, and we are called to be Jesus, alive today, to others. We believe that the individual should have the opportunity to experience a relationship with a loving God, whose presence can fill their lives with faith, hope and peace. As parents are the primary educators of their children, our Religious Education Program is designed to support and complement what is taught and modelled at home. Therefore, we encourage active participation by the whole family in Religious Education at St. Aloysius.

Our students can prepare for and celebrate one Sacrament a year. Sacraments celebrated at St Aloysius include Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. Students will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Grade 3, Eucharist in Grade 4 and Confirmation in Grade 6.



School Community

The St Aloysius community is made up of families not only from Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale but also surrounding areas of the Bellarine Peninsula including St Leonards, Clifton Springs, Indented Heads and Portarlington. While being very proud of its history the St Aloysius community is intent on providing the most contemporary and engaging learning and teaching programme for our students today and into the future. Being part of a Catholic Community, the St Aloysius students are guided by Catholic values and Catholic Social Teaching so as to make a difference in our world both locally and globally.

Parent/Carer Involvement

Parents, as the first educators of their children, are encouraged to become actively involved in the learning and teaching programme at St Aloysius. We believe it is important for parents and our school to work together in partnership, leading to enhanced wellbeing, positive behaviours and improved student learning.

We welcome parents and carers into our school in many ways. Whether it's helping out in the classroom, assisting with excursions or incursions, getting involved in our cooking/gardening/environmental programs, or sharing their knowledge and skills with our students, it all helps the children to acquire the best education possible.

To become involved as a volunteer at St Aloysius School, parents must complete a process implemented by the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria – this involves meeting with the Principal, giving the Principal permission to contact two referees, read and sign the St Aloysius Child Safe Policy and sign the St Aloysius Code of Conduct agreement.

St Aloysius School has a School Advisory Board which has elected parent representatives.

Our Parents and Friends Association organises many activities during the year with the aim of fostering a sense of community in our school and for fundraising initiatives.



Communicating with our Families

Clear communication between home and school is vital to ensuring ongoing, effective partnerships for each child's learning. We adopt a number of methods:

The logo for the school newsletter, featuring the word "Newsletter" in white serif font on a blue rectangular background.

Newsletter – distributed via email and Operoo every Thursday

The logo for parent/teacher interviews, featuring the word "INTERVIEWS" in red capital letters with two speech bubble icons above it.

Parent/teacher interviews – whilst you are invited to a formal meeting with your child's teacher twice a year, you are welcome to make an appointment with your child's teacher any time throughout the year to discuss your child's learning.

The logo for the Operoo app, featuring a stylized purple and blue circular icon followed by the word "operoo" in lowercase purple font.

Operoo App – this all-in-one App allows instant messaging, announcements, digital permission forms and newsletters.

The logo for the Seesaw app, featuring a colorful bow-tie icon followed by the word "Seesaw" in blue and "The Learning Journal" in smaller grey text below.

Seesaw App – a digital portfolio that gives you real-time glimpses into your child's school day. Seesaw helps you stay in the loop and gives you an opportunity to support your child's learning at home.

The Facebook logo, featuring the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

- FaceBook** – there are two Facebook pages:
1. St Aloysius Catholic Primary School, Queenscliff
 2. St A's Parents Group

The Instagram logo, featuring the camera icon in a purple-to-orange gradient square followed by the word "Instagram" in its signature script font.

Instagram – @staloyusqueenscliff

Leadership and Management

At St Aloysius we have a passionate leadership team, led by our Principal, Ms Miriam Leahy. Our Deputy Principal is Miss Karyn Phillips who is also responsible for Student Wellbeing. Mrs Lisa Piasente is the Religious Education Leader at the school. They make up the School Improvement team.

Other staff members are responsible for The Arts (Performing and Visual), Languages and Digital/Design Technologies.



Enrolment Procedure

St Aloysius Catholic Primary School offers a Catholic Education to the children in the Parish of Holy Trinity. The Holy Trinity community realises that once a child becomes a member of the Catholic Church through Baptism, he/she should be given the opportunity to be educated as a Catholic. Where possible this formation is given through Catholic schooling, in partnership with the parish and parents.

It is also possible for non-Catholic children to attend. This can be arranged after a discussion with the Principal about the particular nature of the school and expectations that exist.

Enrolments are open at all times throughout the year.

The enrolment process has a number of stages:

- Complete and submit your application for enrolment.
- You will be invited to an interview where all documentation is required to be presented and verified. At this interview you will be provided with an overview of the school and the school's expectations of parents and students are also discussed.
- If accepted, you will be offered either a place or a position on a waiting list.

- You will be required to sign a Student Enrolment Agreement, accepting the policies, rules and regulations of the school.

An Enrolment Form is attached to this booklet. Please contact us if you require any assistance completing your enrolment form.

School Fees

School fees are reviewed annually based on the required operating budget in consultation with Catholic Education Melbourne and the School Advisory Board to ensure they are consistent with budgetary requirements and families' ability to pay.

Fee statements are posted in November for the following year. Fees are categorised into the following areas:

- Family fee – includes day-to-day running of school, utilities, cleaning, maintenance, minor IT and/or capital improvement, administration and insurance. This fee is charged per family.
- Capital Maintenance Fee – includes maintenance of school buildings, and to support capital loan repayments. This fee is charged per family.
- Compulsory Tuition Levy – refers to charges to parents for essential education items for the students, these can include stationery, text books and other teaching resources (eg Apps). It also includes excursions and incursions. This levy is charged per student.
- Swimming Levy – covers all costs associated with the intensive one-week swimming program, part of the Victorian Curriculum. This levy is charged per student.
- Camp fees – a camp is linked to the educational program for students in Year 3/4 and Year 5/6. This levy is charged per student.

A range of options are available to families to pay the annual school fees:

1. **Payment in full by the due date** – a 5% discount applies to the *family fee only* if the total of the invoice is paid on or before 28 February, in each year
2. **Direct Debit** – payment of account by weekly, fortnightly or monthly payments automatically to the school from a nominated bank account under agreement with the school. Account must be finalised by 31 October, in each year.
3. **Payment in four instalments** (per term) – the first instalment is to be paid by 28 February, the second by 31 May, the third by 31 August and the balance outstanding by 31 October, in each year.

School fees in 2024

1-child family	\$3,175
2-child family	\$3,970
3-child family	\$4,765
4-child family	\$5,560
School camp charges additional –	Year 5 \$385 Year 6 \$460 Year 3/4 \$185

Holders of eligible Concession Cards are entitled to a discount on fees. Please apply at the office.

Transition Program

Whether your child is moving from kindergarten to primary school or moving to our school in another year level, we offer a personalised transition program for your child. Our aim is to develop and foster your child's enthusiasm for learning and provide opportunities for your child to feel comfortable in our school environment.

Children beginning Prep are invited to come to school for 1 hour per month each month between June and November for a total of 6 sessions. Information regarding dates and times for the transition program will be sent to parents in Term 2.



*We are proud of our school and how our children
let their lights shine every day.*



A reflection day was held for year 6 students in the lead up to celebrating their sacrament of Confirmation. Part of their day, spent by the bay and beach, involved making this mandala from items they found on the beach, whilst talking about how they can use and share the gifts of the Holy Spirit with others.

Contact Details

If you would like to arrange a tour or personal meeting with our Principal, Miriam Leahy, please contact the school.

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