

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: What extra-curricular opportunities and experiences does St Catherine's offer?

Answer: STC has many exciting and unique experiences for students to foster well-rounded development of any child. Some are listed below:

- Performing Arts - Instrumental Tutors in a range of String instruments (violin, viola, double bass, cello) and Band instruments (wood wind, brass, percussion, keyboard) along with a Piano tutor. Ensemble groups compete in QCMF
- Poetry Festival for all students
- Yr 4-6 School Choir that competes in QCMF
- Zing Activ Dance Lessons for all children in Term 3 that includes an interschool competition for Yr 3, 4, 5, 6 children.
- Speech and Drama provider after school - Let's Talk Kids
- Year 6 Senior Leadership opportunities – See Yr 6 Leadership question below.
- ICAS Competition (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools)
- STC Musical – In 2025 The Wizard of Oz is coming to STC.
- School Fete every second year. Back in 2026.
- Colour Fun Run - every second year. 2025 is going to be fun and colourful.
- School Camps
 - Yr 5 Tallebudgera - three-day beach camp that includes leadership and high ropes challenges.
 - Yr 6 Canberra – five days exploring the Nation's Capital including Parliament House. There is also one day of Skiing at Thredbo Ski Field. All travel, flights, accommodation, food etc. are included in the school fees.
- Chess Club - after school activity for the patient, deep, forward thinkers.
- Technology 1 to 1 iPad Program – formally implemented from Yr 4 to Yr 6 to allow children to participate in a contemporary learning environment that enables students to create, investigate, communicate and collaborate across all learning areas. STC is genuinely interested in preparing our students to live and work in a digital world.
- Intergenerational Program – Year 6 (students visiting older adults, building relationships)



Question: Does St Catherine's have before and after school care?

Answer: Yes. STC has a fabulous Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) facility that opens at 6.45am in the morning and closes at 6.15pm in the afternoon. The OSHC is also open across all holiday vacation periods. OSHC use all of the STCs fabulous facilities and play areas.

Question: How does the school perform Academically?

Answer: St Catherine's has a strong academic performance which is consistently well ABOVE both the State and National Averages in NAPLAN results. This academic performance is due to committed, professional teaching staff striving for innovative teaching methods. St Catherine's currently has an explicit improvement agenda which is embedding our phonics program from UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute) and also includes a review of our school spelling program. Our school also offers a Learning Enhancement Teacher to enrich and challenge students who require extension.

Question: How much are School Fees at St Catherine's?

Answer: Prep \$3,090, Yr 1, 2, 3 \$2,930, Yr 4 \$3,800, Yr 5, 6 \$3,945. Fees include excursions, buses, swimming, dance lessons etc. Fees also include a personal iPad, Tallebudgera Camp in Yr 5 and a five-day Canberra/Skiing Camp for Yr 6. STC has the lowest fees among all fee-paying schools, including Catholic schools, in the local area. Fees do not include tuckshop or the yearly booklist. Instrumental lessons are an optional extra. For tuition fees there is a 60% discount for a second child enrolled, 40% for a third child and a 20% discount for the fourth child enrolled. Families are able to apply for a fee concession should these payments be out of reach financially.

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School

ABN: 49 991 006 857



Question: Do you have to be Catholic to come to STC?

Answer: No. 60% of the STC community is Catholic but we warmly welcome all families from all faiths or non-faith backgrounds.

Question: How big are classes at St Catherine's?

Answer: Class sizes are approx. 25 in each class across the school. Government Funding requires 25 children in a classroom for schools to balance their budget. St Catherine's sometimes has increased demand in some grades; however, any class with higher numbers will receive extra support through teaching or school officer staff. Prep classrooms have TWO full time staff in their classes at all times and currently have 24 in each of the three classes. STC is a three-stream school in most grades.

Question: Are kids well behaved at St Catherine's?

Answer: Yes. Children at STC are very well behaved. The reason for our exceptional behaviour is that STC provides proactive and reactive Social Emotional Support for all children. The school's Behaviour Support Plan and processes (available on our website) ensures that children are explicitly taught what appropriate behaviour looks like, sounds like and feels like. Children are not perfect so when they do make mistakes, STC works with them to grow and learn from their errors. STC uses Restorative Practices to rebuild relationships, develop empathy and find forgiveness. STC also uses The Resilience Project and Friendology programs to support the social and emotional development of children. Students learn how to make and sustain friendships while also looking after their own wellbeing. STC recognises and celebrates Wellbeing Week each term with fun activities and no Homework. Kids love this week! At Lunch time there are Chill Zones in the Prep -Yr 2 and Yr 3-6 play areas for students who need a quiet, calm space. When our Library reopens in Semester 2, after a magnificent refurbishment, children will also be able to use this beautiful space at lunch time for quiet reading and games.

Question: Is St Catherine's a multicultural community?

Answer: St Catherine's is an inclusive community that welcomes all cultural backgrounds. STC has a dedicated EAL/D (English as an Additional Language/Dialect) support teacher to work with children who are multi-lingual. Approx. 50% of families at STC have at least one parent born overseas. This means that we are blessed with approx. 17% of the student population being bi-lingual. We are proud of our diversity.

Question: What extra staff does STC have to support children with needs?

Answer: Prep classrooms have TWO full time staff in Prep classes at all times. St Catherine's also offers a Guidance Counsellor/ Clinical Psychologist four days a week, along with two Learning Support teachers and a Learning Enhancement (Extension) teacher. STC also provides targeted access to a Speech Therapist and an OT. This support is determined on a case-by-case priority. Each year we also offer Vision and Hearing Screening. All classes receive invaluable support from our wonderful School Officers/Teacher Aides. Children with increased needs for learning receive increased hours of support in class each week.

Question: What Specialist Teachers does St Catherine's have?

Answer: STC offers all Prep – Yr 2 children Drama, Music, Phys Ed, Literature and from Semester 2 Technology Lessons. Yr 3 to Yr 6 attend the same specialist lessons but with Japanese in place of Drama.

Question: Should I pick a school based on where my child's friend is going?

Answer: Friends are important but developing social and emotional skills that support making new friendships in different settings is just as important. It is very normal to change friendships as we grow and our interests and maturity changes. Attaching to one friend at a young age removes the important experiences of making and developing new friendships. In the right setting your child will build many new friendships every year.



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Question: What Leadership opportunities are there for the Yr 6s?

Answer: All Yr 6 students have a leadership role at STC. Most importantly they organise and plan the Social Justice and fundraising initiatives including the Easter Raffle, Caritas, Catholic Mission, Socktober, the Romero Centre and other appeals throughout the year. Leaders fulfill roles and duties each week that include Peer Playground Supervisors, organising the sustainability programs e.g. recycling and composting, running school assembly every Friday, leading sport houses and creating a participation atmosphere at carnivals. While each and every one of our Year 6 students are commissioned and blessed as School Leaders, some of our Year 6 students are called to a special ministry of service at St Catherine's. Some students are offered a captain's role (School and House). As a community we celebrate the achievements of our athletes through Sport Age Champion trophies, poets at the Poetry Festival, Writers and Mathematicians through ICAS Competition and we also provide an avenue for the Leaders in our community to find their role and voice in the Yr 6 group. It must be remembered that ALL children in Year 6 will be leaders and all will have many responsibilities. We are excited to be able to provide this unique opportunity to our students.

Question: What sporting opportunities does St Catherine's offer?

Answer: St Catherine's participates in many sporting opportunities. Students participate in Cross Country, Athletics and Swimming Carnivals. We also attend District and Zone Carnivals for these sports. All Yr 4, 5 and 6 students in 2025 will participate in interschool Gala days in Term 2 as part of the St Thomas Moore College sport program, which includes Oztag, Netball, Soccer and Newcomb ball. STC offers Interschool Touch and Rugby 7s competitions, as well as AFL Auskick, Soccer X and Gymnastics after school. Zing Active Dance lessons and Gala Day are also a unique and important competitive sport that our students experience.

Question: What schools do children move on to after St Catherine's?

Answer: Most children at the end of Year 6 move into Co-Ed high schools, significantly Clairvaux MacKillop College and Mansfield State High. There are many other schools that our children move to including, San Sisto College at Carina. St Catherine's also sees a number of boys and girls move to Independent Religious Institute single sex schools like St Lawrences, Villa Nova, and Loreto College. More than half of the boys in our year level remain at St Catherine's to finish their primary school journey. The numbers of girls leaving at the end of Year 4 is much smaller. We wish all children all the best with their educational journey but we know that STC can provide high quality curriculum and a full, well-rounded learning experience in Yr 5 and 6.



Thank You
Paul Mitchell, Principal