

# St Mary's College

*"Together We Do Good Things"*

Issue 2, Friday 25 February 2022



## *From the Principal*

Dear St Mary's College,

As we continue to settle into the school year, it is wonderful to have all students back on campus. The relationships we share with our students are at the heart of everything we do. School is better with everyone here!

As a Catholic school, we think intentionally about the education and formation of the girls and young women in our care. We believe that living a full life, and thriving in the world, requires more than our intellectual or academic development. Learning to be in a relationship, developing a strong sense of self, growing in spiritual awareness, developing values, and learning to care for others and our world are critical parts of our work.

In the education and formation of our students, we work in partnership with our families. Childhood and the teenage years can be times of immense joy as we nurture the growth and development of our children; they can also be challenging years as children grow into independence.

We want our girls to grow in confidence, find their voice, build independence, and learn in ways that challenge and stretch them. We want our students to thrive individually and in relationships with one another.

At our Parent Information Evenings at the beginning of the year, each sub school leader spoke about partnership. A strong and supportive partnership between home and school is critical in helping your child thrive. Pushing boundaries is a healthy and normal part of development. Having a shared commitment to high expectations is good for the development of young people, especially when it comes to things like uniforms, mobile phones, school attendance, punctuality and work submission. Good habits will support your child for a lifetime.

Some of the ways we can work in a strong partnership include:

- Timely, direct and respectful communication:
  - \* Address concerns as they arise and don't let problems grow
  - \* Connect directly with the teacher, Year Level Coordinator or Sub School Director
  - \* Be clear and respectful in communication. It is too easy to send angry emails; our children need us to model thoughtful and kind communication
- Demonstrate your support for school policies:
  - \* Make sure they leave home in the correct uniform
  - \* Don't contact them via mobile phone during the day – phones are in lockers
  - \* Support them to get to school on time
- Worry about your child, not others, especially regarding uniform. If your child complains that others are not in uniform, you can trust that we are working on it. Other children being out of uniform is not a valid reason for your child to do the same.

The connection between family and school is protective for the growth and development of our girls and young women. Growing a positive relationship with the school, and working in partnership with us, will support your child to thrive.



Warm regards,  
Clare

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## From the Deputy Principal

### Safeguarding Our Children

The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) are a framework to promote the safety of children through policies and activities to prevent, respond to and report concerns regarding child abuse. They apply to all Catholic schools, parishes and Religious Orders throughout Australia.

They are designed to drive cultural and behavioural change and promote accountability and transparency of Catholic Church leaders and their ministries and entities.

There are ten standards, 49 criteria and 111 indicators all up. The ten Standards are inter-related and inter-dependent.

On our school website is a copy of the St Mary's College Commitment Statement to Safeguarding our Children, a commitment we take very seriously.

At the beginning of last year, we updated our processes for all visiting speakers/groups/student teachers/contractors, etc, who work with our students to ensure their safety and protection.

Here at St Mary's College, we regularly review our practices against the Standards, and update and change where needed. We also seek feedback from students about their safety, and through e-pulse each week, provide a safe way for students to let their Care Group teacher know along with the Wellbeing team if they are not okay and are looking for support.

Our staff are committed to, and trained to, protect the children and young people in our care:

- All staff and regular volunteers have current police checks;
- We teach our children age-appropriate strategies to keep themselves safe through South Australia's *Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum*;
- Staff complete certification and undertake regular updated training in *Responding to Abuse and Neglect in Education and Care Settings*;
- We also promote strategies to minimise bullying and help students stay safe online.

Additional information about the broader protection policies of Catholic Education SA can be found on their website. <http://www.cesa.catholic.edu.au/our-schools/safe-environments-for-all>

If you have any questions or concerns about child safety, please do not hesitate to contact me – [lorna.starrs@stmarys.sa.edu.au](mailto:lorna.starrs@stmarys.sa.edu.au)



**Lorna Starrs**  
Deputy Principal

## From the Director of Mission

### Lent and Project Compassion 2022

In the Australian bush, many animals are destroyed by fire. But new tree seedlings grow in the bed of these very ashes. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, and the ashes we use in our prayer services are *a symbol of a new beginning*, and that there is an opportunity for renewed growth.

We call it Ash Wednesday, because traditionally Christians receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads. We all hurt people. We act selfishly. The 6-week season of Lent is a time when we can become better people and really change our hearts and culminates in Easter where we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the hope of new life that comes out of the ashes. We also ask our God to help us to be forgiving people ourselves.

Project Compassion is Caritas Australia's annual Lenten Appeal which raises vital funds to help those facing poverty and injustice in our world. Students learn about life in different countries through the personal stories of people who have participated in Caritas Australia-supported programs.

The theme for this year's Project Compassion is 'For All Future Generations'. It reminds us that *the good that we do today* extends far beyond the present, *impacting* the lives of vulnerable people for *generations to come*. It encourages us to continue to *work together to create small changes each day that will create a lasting impact for people living in poverty*. This links deeply with our College theme 'Together We Do Good Things', which also focuses on the good we can do for others, in our community, in the world around us, and the good we can do for the planet. Pope Francis asks us, 'What kind of world do we want to leave for those who come after us?' (Laudato Si).



Through prayer and reflection, making small sacrifices, and giving what we can, we are all 'doing small things with great love, and together we can do something wonderful' (Mother Teresa).

**Rob Napoli**  
Director of Mission





## Collection Notice for parents/guardians

### 2022 Student Residential Address and Other Information

The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment (the department) would like to notify you that a request has been made for your child's school to provide residential address and other information as required under the *Australian Education Regulation 2013*.

The school is required to provide the department with the following information about each student at the school:

- Names and residential addresses of student's parent(s) and/or guardian(s)
- Student residential address (**excluding student names**)
- Whether the student is a primary or secondary student (education level)
- Whether the student is boarding or a day student (boarding status).

The school collects the above information by generating a **unique and unidentifiable** – student reference number (SRN) for each student record. The SRN is also **only** used by the school for this collection. **It is not allowed to be used for any other purpose.** The number only indicates to the department that each record provided is for one student.

#### Purpose of the collection

The Student Residential Address and Other Information Collection (the Collection) informs Australian Government school education policy and helps ensure funding for non-government schools is based on need basis.

The information collected will be used to inform school funding calculations. It is combined with data held by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to calculate a non-government school community's anticipated capacity to contribute to the costs of schooling.

From 2020, a new measure of capacity to contribute, the Direct Measure of Income (DMI), was introduced. The DMI is based on the median income of parents or guardians of students at a non-government school using data collected through the Collection. More information about the DMI can be found on the [Quality Schools Package](#) page on the departmental website.

#### Use and disclosure of personal information

**Your personal information is protected by law** under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (Privacy Act). Personal information is information or an opinion about an identifiable individual. Personal information includes an individual's name and contact details.

Any use or disclosure of your personal information must occur in accordance with Privacy Act and the *Australian Education Act 2013* and *Australian Education Regulation 2013*.

Your personal information provided to the department through the Collection may be:

- disclosed to the ABS for the purposes of capacity to contribute calculations and analysis as a part of the Multi-Agency Data Integration Project (MADIP). Further information about MADIP can be found on the [MADIP page](#) on the ABS website.
- disclosed to a contracted auditor where the department may from time to time, carry out an audit of a school's submission to the Collection. The contracted auditor compares the school's submission with the student enrolment information held by the school and will not use the information for any other purpose.
- disclosed to its service providers for the purposes of the provision of information and communications technology support services to the department.
- used or disclosed where it is otherwise required or authorised by law.

The department does not intend to disclose your personal information to any overseas recipients.

The department's privacy policy can be found at [www.dese.gov.au](http://www.dese.gov.au) and includes information on:

- how individuals can access and seek correction of the personal information held by the department;
- how complaints about potential breaches or breaches of the Privacy Act can be made;
- how the department will deal with these complaints.

The department commissioned an independent privacy impact assessment (PIA). The PIA assesses the flows of information under the Collection, compliance with the Privacy Act and measures in place to safeguard the personal information being collected. The current version is available at <https://www.dese.gov.au/school-funding/resources/2018-student-residential-address-collection-additional-required-information-privacy-impact>

## What do you need to do?

You are not required to do anything. Your school is responsible for providing the requested details to the department; however, you may wish to ensure that your school has the most up-to-date and correct details for your family.

## Contacts for further information

Your school can provide additional information about the Collection process.

Alternatively, please visit the [SchoolsHUB Address Collection help and support page](#).