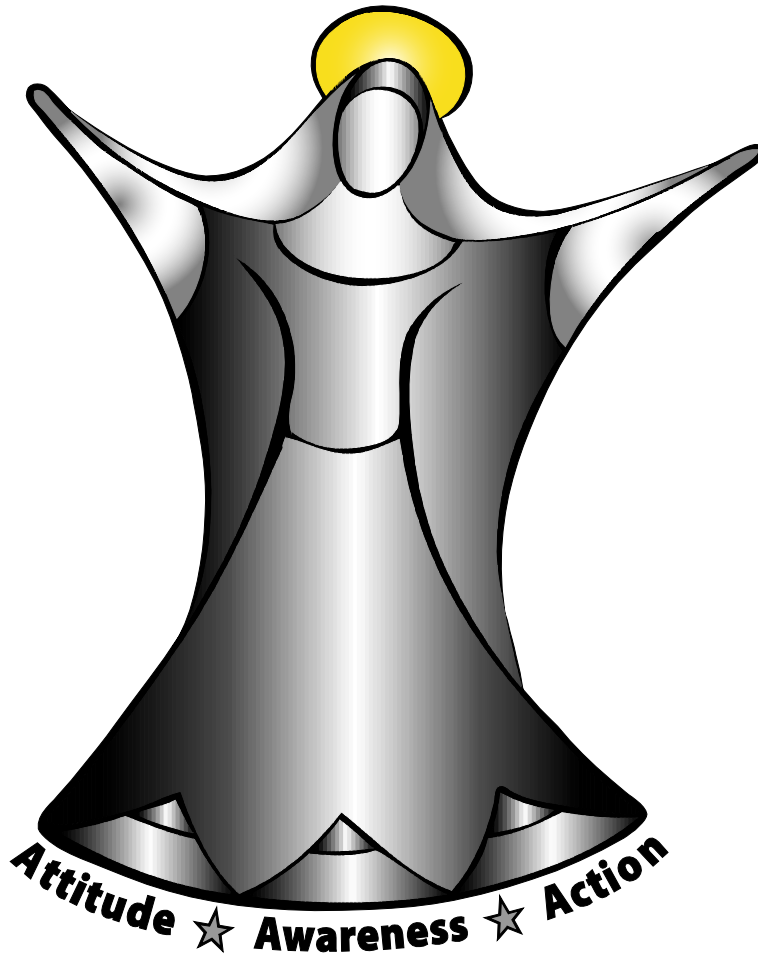


St Joseph's PS Numurkah



SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

We Are a Child Safe School

**We promote the safety, wellbeing and inclusion
of all children**

All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have the right to feel safe and be safe in all school environments and outside of school hours. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety.

Dear Parents,

I welcome you to our School as you learn more about St Joseph's. We are a strong and flourishing school. We continue to grow and develop, combining the best of our traditions with new programs, facilities and technologies that best meet the needs of our students and families.



Our school was founded by Saint Mary MacKillop. Incredibly, she became Australia's first Saint in October 2010 which makes it even more special as we work to continue the tradition that is her legacy; a school that is a place where God is named and recognised and where Christian Values are lived out.

"We are Open to All Who Seek Our Values"

As a school, we strive to provide an atmosphere in which each child's talents and skills can be recognised and developed to their fullest potential. We work to instil a sense of self-discipline in our children where they respect each other's differences and encourage each other to strive to be their best. We stress that their decisions and actions affect those around them. Our Social Skills are based on our **TRIPLE A**. Saint Mary MacKillop said, "Never see a need without doing something about it!" At St Joseph's we : need to have a positive **Attitude**, need to be **Aware** and need to take **Action**.

The school is proud of having the most modern facilities available. Our recent additions and refurbishments have continued to set the benchmark in terms of provision of a modern, safe and stimulating environment that reflects teaching and learning in the 21st Century. Many parents and visitors comment on how things have changed since they went to school. I say, "Thank goodness". Our modern day school must be ready to meet the needs of children brought up in a technological, open and questioning world. Our social groupings and resources must reflect our modern world and I am proud to say we strive to do this. We keep the best of the old but are not afraid to be innovative and creative in doing what's best for our children.

While we implement a broad and comprehensive curriculum in our classrooms, we also have in place a range of specialist subjects and extra programs to add to our children's experiences. We expect our students to participate in all that we do. We ask each boy and girl to

"Have a Go at Everything and Do Your Best"

Our staff is a vibrant team. We blend an excellent balance of experience and youth, both male and female. I am proud to lead this group of professionals.

This prospectus should provide you with an outline of what we offer our students and families. If you are interested in finding out more about St Joseph's, then feel free to give me a call. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have and show you around our magnificent school. We welcome all families, regardless of religious or cultural background and strongly support those experiencing financial difficulty or hardship.

I look forward to meeting you.

Yours Sincerely,

Paul Arnel
Principal.



We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land where we live and learn today, the Yorta Yorta people and their continuing connection to the land, rivers and community. We pay our respect to them and their culture, and to the elders both past and present. As we take each step, we remember the people who first walked this land.



Our School

St Joseph's Parish Primary School has served our community for over 130 years after being opened in 1890 by Saint Mary MacKillop. The school has grown and developed to meet the needs of all the students and families that it has served over this time. St Joseph's has undergone many changes and has recently experienced a period of strong growth and expansion. Today we have magnificent facilities that provide the best possible learning environment for our children. Our challenge is to adapt and work to provide an education that will best prepare our children to be confident and contributing members of modern society. This year we have an enrolment of over 230 students. We have divided these children into fourteen groups which provides for excellent class sizes as well as specialist teacher input. The staff is our school's greatest asset. Our group of 51 committed professionals work to care for and teach our children, utilising the very best of facilities that St Joseph's provides, while continuing their own growth through on-going professional development.



2025 St Joseph's Staff



Our Facilities

St Joseph's has undergone a complete refurbishment over the years, with all facilities being brand new or fully refurbished. Our Learning Areas are Open Spaces where our staff can work as teams in reaching all our children. We have a beautiful Art Room and Library, a Music Room and large multi-purpose which we call The [Mary MacKillop Centre](#). It has state of the art sound and video technology, stage, amenities and canteen.

Our most recent work is the additions of Shade and BBQ facilities to the MacKillop Centre as well as the refurbishment to our Senior School with inclusive Office and Meeting Rooms.

The school has attractive, expansive grounds and facilities that support a broad range of activities, sports and games. We have flexi-pave netball, basketball and tennis courts, a fitness track, synthetic grass bat tennis, volleyball and all weather play space under our huge COLA shed. Our magnificent oval has been recently upgraded to include an Athletics Track, providing an outstanding surface for suitable play and sports. There's something for everyone.



School Fees : Affordability & Access

Our school policy clearly states **that no child will be excluded from school if families have genuine financial difficulty**. Your first decision is whether you choose to be a part of our community, then we come to a mutually fair and suitable arrangement. Our founder, Mary MacKillop, believed that every child has the right to an education; we maintain that belief in ensuring all families can access our school.

Families experiencing financial difficulties can contact me at any time so that alternative arrangements can be made. Such arrangements are strictly confidential.

The Annual Fees are set by the School Advisory Council in November and currently rise by 3% per year in line with the CPI. Excursion fees are set to cover the cost of excursions at the different year levels.

Fee Structure for 2025

Family School Fee	\$1,205
Gardening & Maintenance Levy (per family)	\$ 60
Diocesan Land Fund (per family)	\$ 50
Total Family Fee	\$1,315

Capital Fee (per family)	\$ 200
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Subject Materials Levy (per student)	\$ 124
Technology/Computer Levy (per student)	\$ 75

Excursions/Extra Activities Fees (per student)

Grades 5/6	\$ 400
Grade 3/4	\$ 226
Grades P/1/2	\$ 125

Accounts for the school fees, levies & excursion fees are issued on the following basis:

Option 1 – One payment of all fees due end of February

Option 2 – Four equal payments at the beginning of **each term**

Option 3 – Payments by you or direct debit from your financial institution:

- **Fortnightly** x 20 from February to November or
- **Monthly** x 10 from February to November

Option 4 – Centrepay deductions

Option 5 – Alternative arrangements with the Principal



Teaching & Learning Through Our School

Our learning groups are divided into four areas, namely Foundation, Junior, Middle and Senior. We guide our children from being dependent to independent learners through their years of Primary School. We commit to educating students to be :

- Living examples of Christ in the knowledge that they are loved by God.
- Self-directed risk takers who are able to set realistic goals and celebrate achievements.
- Proud, happy, confident people who have high self-esteem and resilience.
- Compassionate community members who have a genuine care and respect for themselves, others and the environment.
- Life-long creative, inquiring learners who are literate, numerate and competent users of technology

Our **Prep School** is simply two straight classes housed in our magnificent Mary MacKillop House. It is a beautiful environment where our newest students learn the routines of school and positive social behaviour and grasp the foundations of literacy and numeracy.

Our **Junior School** combines four classes of Year One and Two children. These mostly dependent learners are provided with much individual and focused attention. Suitable support is provided to ensure that each child secures the basic building blocks of learning. We seek for each to be happy and secure at school as they continue their education journey.



Our **Middle School** is made up of four classes of Year Three and Four students. We promote greater independence and self-discipline in our children as they grow to extend their wealth of skills, knowledge and abilities. We continue to support those students requiring continued focused attention while allowing students with well-developed skills greater challenge in research and extension.

Our **Senior School** consists of four groups of Year Five and Six boys and girls. This grouping serves to provide a harmonious learning community housed in four modern interconnected rooms. This provides our students and teachers with a flexible, calm living and learning environment where we focus on a combination of explicit teaching, focused group work and independent research tasks.

We are truly proud of what we have achieved throughout our school.

Student Achievement

We are proud of our achievements and high academic standards across our school.

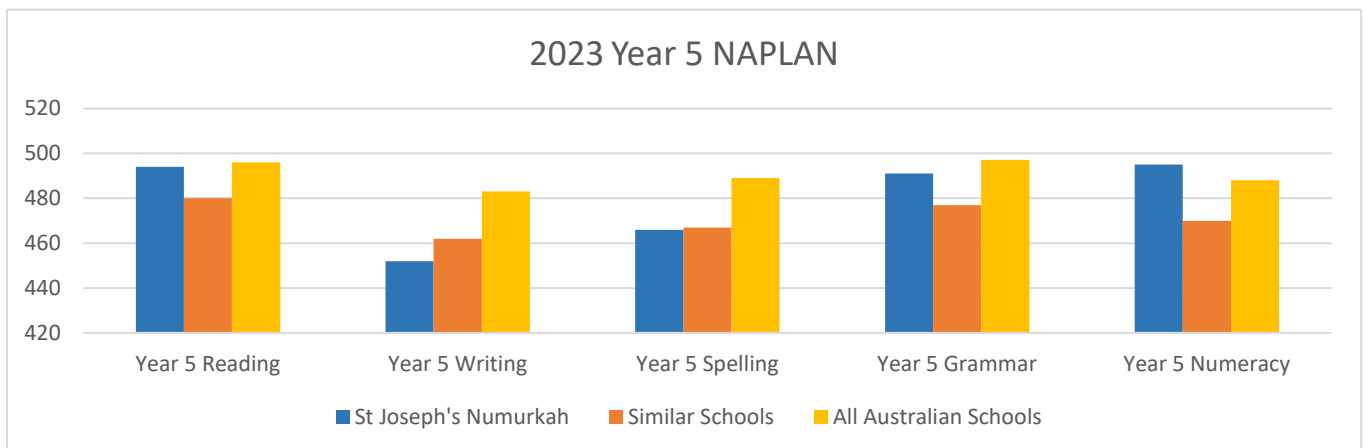
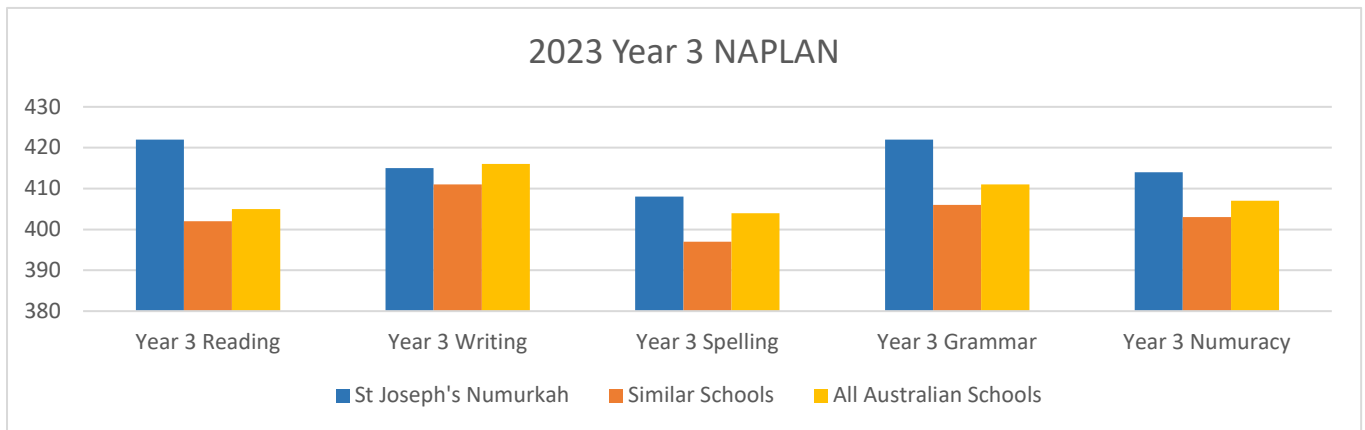
This can be seen in our NAPLAN results and the information published on the MySchools website.

We have also been recognised by ACARA (Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority) congratulating us on our results.

“Your school has been identified as having substantially above average gain in achievement as measured by NAPLAN.”

Our 2023 results continue to reflect our work.

The graphs below illustrate our results compared to that of “Similar Primary Schools” and “Australian Primary Schools”. The results speak for themselves.



Learning Programs

Learning Programs at St. Joseph's School support the children in their growth and development in all areas, preparing them with lifelong skills that will help them to believe in themselves and their abilities, and to be able to contribute positively to their world. Our curriculum is based on the Victorian Curriculum.

To support student Learning and Teaching Practice we have established a 'Learning and Teaching Framework' which underpins all we do.

Knowing the Learner
Building Positive Relationships
Purposeful Learning
Purposeful Teaching



Religious Education

We believe that each child is important and valued and that all have something to contribute. Every child has the right to live happily and achieve fullness of life with God - and to grow and learn in a community where Christian values are taught and modelled daily. We endeavour to foster and continue the development of our faith tradition which begins at home.

Prayer and Religious Education lessons are a part of our daily routine and we have regular School Masses. We implement and coordinate the Sacramental Programs of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation through our Parish for those families who choose to participate.



Literacy

Literacy incorporates the skills of writing, reading, speaking and listening. We have a school plan that sets out how we work to ensure success for all students. This Literacy Plan outlines how we organise our teaching and learning. It is based on a Foundation to Year 6 continuum of consistent good practices that are drawn from the most recent programs such as SoundsWrite and MacqLit

In our Literacy Classes, students work in focus groups where activities and experiences are planned and implemented based on the needs of the children. These skills and strategies can then be applied to relevant learning activities across the day eg Inquiry Units of Work.

Numeracy

Through Mathematics children develop concepts, skills, applications and processes which allow them to participate meaningfully in society. Mathematics can be viewed as an abstract discipline but it must also relate to everyday situations and be integrated with other curriculum areas.

As with Literacy, our classes are structured so that focus group teaching forms the basis for our practice. Skills are taught to target groups within the class so challenges are presented to all and the needs of individual students are met.



Information Technology



St.



Joseph's School embraces the technological advancements in our society. We are committed to students becoming more innovative, knowledgeable, skilful and adaptable in the use of technology. Subsequently, we have racks of MacBook's and iPads throughout the school that are wireless networked for use during literacy, numeracy and inquiry unit work sessions.

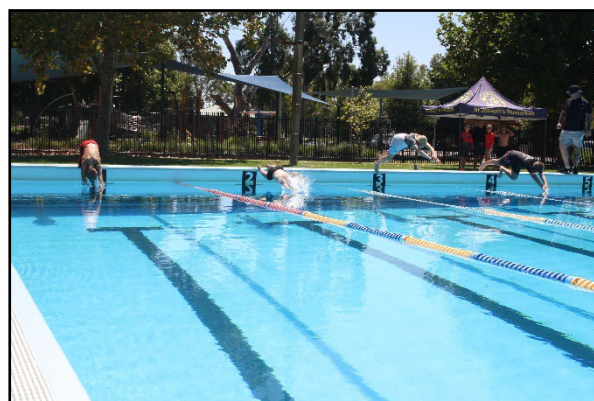
We have also installed Smart TVs in all areas of our school which sets the future for teaching and learning technologies. Our MacKillop Centre features a state of the art Video Wall used for assemblies and school presentations. This also allows us to stream presentations so that all families are able to enjoy their child's achievements.



Physical Education & Sport

We offer an extensive program of fitness, skill Development sports competition and representative opportunities.

Our Physical Education is coordinated by our specialist, Shane Merkel. The program develops fitness and skills. We have School Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals. We participate in Inter-School Sports and encourage involvement in a wide range of representative sports. We also come together as a school for our Annual Twilight Sports.



Inquiry Units of Work

Our units of work draw their content from the curriculum areas of Health, Humanities and the Sciences. These units aim to develop our children's capacity to manage themselves and their relationships with others, understand the world around them and to act effectively in that world.

Examples of these units are titled :

- Sustainability
- Healthy Foods & Living

These units are planned to cover all subject areas over a two year cycle.



Excursion Program

Our boys and girls also participate in an excursion program that provides them with opportunities to live and learn out of the normal school and home environment.

Preps : An Afternoon at School. Our Preps enjoy a number of day trips that tie in with their Unit Topic. They also stay at school for an afternoon when everyone else has gone home. They participate in a range of activities while enjoying being the big kids at school. It's a bbq tea then off home after a big day.

Year One and Two : Sleepover. These children get to sleepover at school and enjoy a range of evening and night activities linked to our Health and P.E. curriculum. For some it's their first night away from family. They also enjoy a number of day trips.

Year Three and Four : Overnight Excursion. Our middle school children travel away on a two day educational excursion. The destination will be related to the unit of work that the classes are undertaking.

Year Five and Six: Major Excursion. The year five and six children head off on a four day excursion to destinations such as Sovereign Hill and Boorambole. This too is relevant to the Unit of Work that the classes are undertaking.

SENIORS CAMP



MIDDLES CAMP



JUNIORS SLEEPOVER



The Arts

The Arts, which are an essential part of our life and culture, provide children with pleasure and enjoyment. They enable the children to express themselves in a creative way according to their own personality and talents.

Art and Craft

We have a specialist art program in a facility that is second to none. Our children's creativity and artistic skills are nurtured and developed. Carol Lawless is our Specialist Teacher.



Music

Our Music Program runs alongside our normal classroom programs with Joanie Arnel coordinating special events and choir activities.

An annual feature is our involvement in the Diocesan Festival of the Sacred singing spectacular.

We also have talent shows and opportunities for music tuition through the school.

Performing Arts

Our teachers utilise the state of the art Mary MacKillop Centre which boasts a magnificent stage and the latest in sound and video technologies in implementing our Performing Arts Program.



LOTE (Language Other Than English)

Our LOTE Program that focuses on a Language per term. This approach allows our children to be exposed to a variety of cultures, backgrounds, customs and traditions from countries from around the world. This is especially important for children who are generally exposed to minimal cultural influence in our country town. Our LOTE teacher is Tim Harber. Since 2019 our school has entered the Sandhurst Languages Film Festival where we were awarded First Prize 5 years in a row!





Library

We have a magnificent Library that is maintained by Mary Laidlaw. The children have a specialist lesson each week where they learn the skills of the Library, borrow books and continue to nurture a love of Literature. This is also a major research centre for our boys and girls

Additional Needs

We look to support our students with Additional Needs as best we can. We accept differences in all our students and to those with specific needs or difficulties we offer extra support and assistance. Currently our school employs eleven teacher assistants who work to support children with special needs and implement individual programs that assist in their learning. We form teams to support and monitor the progress of each of these children and meet once a term in our Parent Support Group meetings.

Wellbeing

St Joseph's Wellbeing Program is based on Christian Values and Beliefs and is seen as an essential ministry within the School Community.

Our Religious Education Program and Social Skills Programs teach different aspects of wellbeing but serve to reinforce our intrinsic Christian values.

Our Social Skills Program focuses on basic skills such as "Using People's Names", "Respect", "Tolerance" and "Manners". These weekly topics are taught in our classrooms and reinforced in assemblies.

We strive to support all of our families when required, whether it be through linking with community agencies, providing specialist advice or a casserole from our casserole bank. In addition we have activities such as our Mother's Day and Father's Day Breakfasts which celebrate our community and provide a fun and social opportunity to get together.

Have also become a part of the 'Dogs Connect' Wellbeing Dogs in Schools Program. Frankie is our wellbeing dog who works with students throughout the school.



Ruth Hartnett-Carr is our Inclusion and Well-Being Leader.

Ruth is available to serve those in our community who may be experiencing difficulty in a range of social, emotional or personal situations.

Ruth works with families and their children who require additional support with their education and allied health teams.

We also access Diocesan Specialists (eg Psychologists, Occupational Therapists) who support us to ensure that funded programs are adapted to meet specific needs of our students. Our school has also taken the initiative of employing a [Speech Therapist, Lauren Cook](#), who works one and a half days a week with boys and girls who require such specialist support.



Student Leadership

We look to our older students to take a more active and recognised role within the school community. We trust they become more active and self disciplined learners. By Year 6 they are all offered formal roles of leadership, each receives a badge and all are invited to involve themselves in leadership tasks in a range of areas. Such duties include leading assemblies, organising sports activities and fundraising days, visiting our local Kinder, caring for a Prep Buddy, completing daily responsibilities around the school and especially leading by example in all that they say and do.



Parental Involvement

We very much welcome and encourage our parents to be involved in our school at all levels. For example, our day begins with opportunities for parents to read with children in classrooms. From there, we invite parents and guardians to come along and join us in such activities as :

Parents and Friends Association

Prayer Celebrations

School Canteen

Library – cataloguing, book covering

Weekly Assemblies

School Sports Days

School Celebrations

Working Bees

Excursions

School Advisory Council

Fun Run

Fete

Veggie Garden

Second Hand Uniforms

Recycling Program



Before and After School Care, Vacation Care

Before & After School Care is available from Mon – Fri 7am to 8.30am and from 3.15 to 6.00pm. Vacation Care is available during school holidays 8am to 5pm Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays. The programs are run from the MacKillop Centre and is run by our Qualified Carers. Refreshments are provided followed by a range of enjoyable activities for the children to participate in. Significant Government rebates are available for our users.



Bus Travel

Many of our children travel on school buses. We access a wide network that safely brings children to and from school. Travellers assemble each afternoon in their bus lines where staff ensure all are present before departure. We appoint senior students as Bus Monitors. These boys and girls work to care for and look after younger students and set an example with regard to behaviour and attitude. The Buses are co-ordinated by the Numurkah Secondary College.

Uniform

We have a beautiful uniform that is worn proudly by our boys and girls. Our staff work to support the correct wearing of uniform so that high standards are maintained.

2025 Year 6 Leaders



Enrolment

For 2026 Prep Enrolment, parents and their children can look forward to the following :

- Term 2 : [Enrolments Open](#)
- Term 3 : [Personal Parent Interviews](#) with the Principal to become familiar with each child's needs, set out the orientation routine and finalise practical matters
- Term 4 : [Jump Start Program](#) – our incoming boys and girls are invited to attend regular short sessions in their Prep Room to familiarise themselves with life at school. This has been a most successful way for our children to ease themselves into school life and for our teachers to get to know each child and their needs.
[Orientation Day](#) - our whole Prep group comes to school on [Tuesday, December 9](#) for a session of fun activities.

In closing, I invite you to visit St Joseph's or contact me on [58621804](tel:58621804) or parnel@sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au to find out more about our school and experience our outstanding living and learning environment.

You can also visit our website at www.sjnumurkah.catholic.edu.au