

COLLEGE PROSPECTUS 2019-2020



St Leo's CATHOLIC COLLEGE



“
A strong emphasis
on knowing each
student and
growing their
unique potential.
”

Why Choose St Leo's?

St Leo's Catholic College is located on six hectares in the leafy suburb of Wahroonga and is the only co-educational Catholic secondary school on Sydney's Upper North Shore.

- A caring, inclusive community renowned for our pastoral care, St Leo's has a strong focus on knowing each student and growing their unique potential and passion
- One-on-one student mentoring and coaching
- Consistently strong academic results with students regularly appearing in the HSC High Achiever and All-rounder lists. Over 70 percent of students are offered a university place each year. In 2018, St Leo's had the highest ATAR in the Diocese with 99.35
- Our unique online learning platform featuring digital portfolios our students take with them to show future employers and where they can articulate and 'own' their learning
- A strong sporting culture and huge range of co-curricular offerings including overseas tours and an emphasis on social justice opportunities
- New \$14m Creative and Performing Arts, Design, Technology and Hospitality centre now open
- Near completion of extensive \$25m building program, providing even more new state-of-the-art facilities.



Welcome to St Leo's

St Leo's is a comprehensive co-educational Catholic college and an exceptional place to learn.

We truly are a caring, inclusive community committed to knowing each student and growing their unique potential. With consistently strong academic results and a wide range of co-curricular offerings, we aim to help students

find their passion and develop their talents so that they can shape and change the world for the better. Our incredible community and range of opportunities form well-rounded students for whom anything is possible.



“
Co-education
is inspiring,
supportive, exciting,
fun, realistic and,
above all, natural.”

Why Co-ed?

We strongly believe that co-education allows students to appreciate the different perspectives boys and girls bring to the community and successfully experience the sheer complexity of gender, particularly during the formative adolescent years.

In academic terms, boys and girls attain similar merits, indicating that each gender is enhanced by the presence of the other. Our students are comfortable with who they are and have a healthy, positive and respectful attitude towards each other.

Socialisation is undeniably one of the essential outcomes of schooling, and it is more naturally and fully achieved within a co-educational environment. The social development of students, including the formation of appropriate values and attitudes, is a prerequisite for the ongoing wellbeing of our society.

Co-education prepares students for the world after school where 'real life' is rarely gender separated. Co-education is the best environment for the future.



A Message from the Principal

I am proud to warmly welcome you to St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga.

At St Leo's, we are committed to forming confident, competent Catholic-valued young men and women of conscience, aiming to help students find their passion and develop their talents into greatness.

We equip our students with the skills and attitudes to be future-leaders in their fields, honouring God in what they do and how they do it. To achieve this, we aim to provide broad educational experiences that promote the spiritual, academic, social, cultural, physical and environmental growth of our students.

Our students are well-rounded individuals who are ready to not only face the challenges of the future, but to be successful people who honour God in what they do and they way they do it.

I invite you to come and see the wealth of opportunities available at St Leo's and experience the warmth and caring of our community for yourself.

Yours sincerely
Mr Anthony Gleeson



“ We recognise each student and encourage them to find their personal greatness. ”

Teaching and Learning

St Leo's is an award-winning school acknowledged for teaching excellence. We provide an engaging and challenging learning environment focused on promoting student growth.

We are part of a global partnership of 1400 schools in seven countries known as New Pedagogies for Deep Learning (NPDL). Working together, we share best practices to design relevant and authentic teaching and learning experiences that prepare and equip our students for the future.

While our academic results are consistently strong, we embrace a diversity of student capabilities and provide academic challenges and support for different learning styles, rates and abilities. We ensure all students have the opportunity to achieve their best.



St Leo's has a broad curriculum that is responsive to each student's needs while developing deep learning skills – our '6Cs' of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, character and Christian citizenship. Our courses give students a balanced and diverse experience across a range of academic, cultural, physical and vocational fields.

Along with Vocational Education and Training (VET) subjects, we offer Gifted and Talented Programs, Learning Support and a unique Community Tutoring Program.

Pastoral Care & Wellbeing



We are proud of our reputation for the highest quality pastoral care. We recognise each student and encourage them to find their personal greatness. Our comprehensive Pastoral Care Program focuses on promoting wellbeing, connectedness, resilience and positive relationships.

Mentor teachers work with each student to develop a Personalised Learning Plan and digital portfolio using our custom online Learning Den, setting goals and reflecting on their growth. Our pastoral programs include motivational speakers, retreats, outdoor recreation programs, peer support, student-led initiatives as well as our comprehensive mentoring program.

A new Pathway Specialist role assists students and families transition from school to the world beyond. Students are encouraged to show initiative and leadership in everything they do, and recognised through a progressive Merit Award system and formal leadership opportunities.

Catholic Life and Mission

St Leo's is first and foremost a Catholic school, with the religious dimension of the College being a shared partnership between families, parish communities and the College.

Family and friends are encouraged to join in the many events that occur during the year when the College gathers together to celebrate our Faith.

Religion is an essential and comprehensive area of study for all students and prayer is an important part of daily life. A real sense of community exists at St Leo's, and our Chapel is the spiritual heart.

Christian leadership is fostered through our Youth Ministry Program, which offers a variety of activities in the areas of advocacy, catechesis, community life, evangelisation, justice and service, leadership development, as well as prayer and worship.

A child's education is a journey that benefits from a strong, healthy partnership between peers, dedicated teachers, families and the parish community.



Our Faith in Action – Social Justice

There is a significant focus at St Leo's on putting our faith into action and giving students agency and confidence to build a world that is positive, just and inclusive.

Our Youth Ministry Coordinator oversees our renowned Social Justice Program, where we offer many opportunities for students to learn about social justice and structural inequalities that create barriers in our society. Students can participate in a range of activities such as the monthly St Vincent de Paul Sydney Night Patrols, Street Retreats, nursing home visits, Relay for Life and many more opportunities.

The College also offers unique, life-changing immersion experiences that broaden students' education and strengthen their faith including our annual programs in remote indigenous communities and our ongoing Pacific Partnership Program with the island of Kiribati.





“ St Leo’s has a strong sporting culture and enjoys huge success in representative sports. ”

Beyond the Classroom – Sport for Life



St Leo’s offers a high-quality tiered sporting program covering a huge range of sports which is developed and run by our specifically trained and dedicated teachers.

All students in Years 7–10 participate in our weekly Sport for Life program, designed to encourage an appreciation for physical activity regardless of skill level or fitness. Our Accelerated and High Performance Sports Program allow talented sports students to progress to higher levels including local, national and International tours.

St Leo’s has a strong sporting culture and enjoys huge success in representative sports. Students participate in a wide range of organised sporting events throughout the year against other Diocesan schools and in other individual competitions.

For highly competitive students, the tiered sporting program provides a pathway to representation at Regional, State and National levels in the Combined Catholic Colleges, NSW All Schools and School Sport Australia competitions where we have had many representatives.



Beyond the Classroom – Creative and Performing Arts

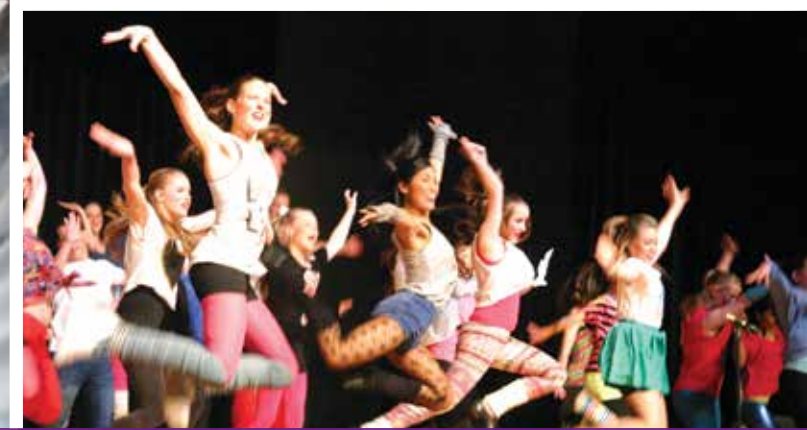
At St Leo's, we believe that creative and performing arts are an essential element of a holistic education.

Drama, Music and Visual Arts are an integral part of the school curriculum and we are excited that the subjects of Dance and Entertainment have now both been introduced to the College.

Our annual Showcase is an impressive community event featuring all our outstanding student works across the spectrum of creative and performing arts. St Leo's students regularly win awards and eisteddfods, are invited to exhibit at ARTEXPRESS, Music Encore and offered places at NIDA.

Our music program is exceptional, with numerous opportunities for students to pursue their musical passions through various band, ensemble and choir programs and display their talents at festivals and regular College concerts. Our annual musical and other productions also exhibit our students' music, drama and dancing talents.

Our commitment to the arts has been further extended with the opening of our new Mary MacKillop Centre which includes a drama and dance theatre, art gallery and visual art studios, and specialty music, orchestra and band rooms.



“Our new \$14m Mary MacKillop Centre highlights our commitment to the arts.”





“ We equip our students with the skills and attitudes to be future leaders. ”

Preparing Students for the Future

We equip our students with the skills and attitudes to be future leaders in their fields.

Technology is no longer an ‘add on’, it is an integral part of daily learning, and students are encouraged to advance their skills for the future in a safe environment through programs such as VEX robotics.

Our Learning Den is a custom online learning platform where students can record and track their progress in a range of areas, providing them learning ownership and a digital portfolio to take with them when they leave. Student iPads or MacBooks, along with other learning technologies, are important tools in developing critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication skills.

We have an interdisciplinary approach to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), which students apply to make connections between school, community, work and the global enterprise. Our students develop skills for life to succeed in bridging the gap between the world as we know it now and the world that advancing technology is constantly reshaping.





To find out more about St Leo's, attend our Open Day in March each year or contact us to arrange a tour throughout the year at a time convenient to you.

16 Woolcott Avenue, Wahroonga, NSW 2076

T: 9487 3555

E: stleos@dbb.catholic.edu.au

www.stleos.nsw.edu.au



St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga