

COLLEGE PROSPECTUS 2024-2025



St Leo's CATHOLIC COLLEGE



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

Welcome to St Leo's Catholic College

St Leo's is a comprehensive co-educational Catholic secondary college focussed on developing the whole person. It is an exceptional place to learn.

St Leo's is proud to be a truly caring, inclusive community renowned for its pastoral care, focus on wellbeing for learning and development of the whole person.

We have a strong emphasis on knowing each student and growing their unique potential, helping them find their passion and develop their talents so they can shape and change the world for the better.

Our emphasis on skills for lifelong learning, extensive range of opportunities and wonderful community form well-rounded students for whom anything is possible.



Why choose St Leo's?

Our newly upgraded campus 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.

- As a caring, inclusive community renowned for our pastoral care, we have a strong focus on knowing each student and growing their unique potential and passion.
- A distinct innovation and technology focus, offering a range of programs to ensure our students have the skills they need for a globalised world.
- We pride ourselves on achieving 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.
- We are consistently above the average student growth in NAPLAN - across both State and SSSG schools (Statistically Similar School Group).
- We focus on developing the whole person across our range of St Leo's Growth Domains – Spiritual, Academic, Cultural, Social/Emotional, Environmental, and Physical dimensions – ensuring a diverse and purposeful experience, and the balanced development of our students.
- A future-directed view of education focusing on deep learning skills and offering one-on-one student mentoring and coaching, helps our students become lifelong learners.
- Our Pathways and Partnerships Program works with students and families to navigate the many options beyond school, developing industry and higher education partnerships and shaping new offerings at St Leo's.
- Our recent \$30M campus upgrade provides state-of-the-art technology and facilities, including the \$14M Mary MacKillop Centre with theatre, music studios, commercial kitchens, industrial technology workshops, new learning hub and numerous flexible learning spaces.
- A strong sporting culture together and extensive wide variety of co-curricular offerings, including overseas tours and an emphasis on social justice opportunities.





Address by
Mr Gleeson

“
*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.

Not only do girls and boys learn differently, but so does every student, regardless of their gender. Knowing each student as a learner is one of the foundations here at St Leo's.

Socialisation is undeniably one of the essential outcomes of schooling, and it is more naturally and fully achieved within a co-education 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.

Our world is a 'co-ed' type of world – what better place to continue this education and develop these relationships, particularly during their formative years of adolescence?



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 women and men 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 make this world a better place for all.

To achieve this, we aim to provide broad educational experiences that promote the Spiritual, Academic, Social/Emotional, Cultural, Physical and Environmental growth of our students – what we

call our St Leo's Growth Domains. By developing real-world, transferable skills, our students graduate as well-rounded individuals ready to successfully negotiate the challenges of the future. We strive to ensure each student develops to be the best they can.

St Leo's is part of the Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB) system of schools and draws upon this system for expertise and support.

I invite you to visit us to 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 & Learning

St Leo's is an award winning school acknowledged for teaching excellence. We provide an engaging and challenging environment to learn, with a focus on promoting student growth.

Underpinned by the Catholic Schools Broken Bay 'Towards 2025' vision, the goal of St Leo's Catholic College is to establish a positive culture of learning that enables each child to achieve their best.

Students are taught to think critically, apply knowledge to new situations, and develop the skills needed to become lifelong learners able to adapt and thrive in our ever-changing world.



Our teaching and learning focus provides staff with the ability to guide individual student learning through meaningful feedback which enables them to achieve learning growth.

Our dedicated staff bring a diverse range of experience and expertise to foster the individual growth of each student. We know that relationships are imperative to a student's experience with learning and school.

We offer a wide-ranging curriculum and extra-curricular program to ensure all students can find talents and be their best at the College.

Pastoral Care & Wellbeing

We are proud of our strong 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 and contributes to our ongoing reputation as a caring, inclusive community.

We ensure balanced and diverse growth through a College-wide focus on what we call our St Leo's Growth Domains – the Spiritual, Academic, Cultural, Social/Emotional, Environmental and Physical development areas of every student.

Mentor teachers work with each student to develop a sense of belonging at St Leo's and assist in helping them set goals and reflect on their individual growth. Our pastoral programs include retreats, outdoor programs such as camps and a series of dedicated Pastoral Days that enable students to engage in our



wellbeing program, specifically tailored to their stage of development. Pastoral Days are developed in alignment with the St Leo's Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Guidelines, which are informed by the Australian Student Wellbeing Framework (ASWF) 2018.

Catholic Life & Mission

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

Religion is an essential and comprehensive area of study for all students, prayer an important part of daily life, regular religious gatherings and celebrations not only embraced but enthusiastically led by students, and Christian leadership fostered through our Youth Ministry Program.

As part of their transition into Year 7, all students from across the Broken Bay Diocese attend a 'Belong' formation day. A special day of fun, music, connection and faith formation. Special guests include our Bishop and Director of Schools.

Two school days per year-group are dedicated to our Pastoral Care and Spirituality Program. Later in their St Leo's journey, senior students attend a three day retreat.

A real sense of community exists at St Leo's and our newly refurbished Chapel is the spiritual heart, where students have the option to attend weekly activities including Mass and the Rosary.



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 Evangelisation and Catechesis staff empower students to put their faith into action with a wide range of social justice opportunities.

The College's Vinnies Conference has raised over \$75,000 since 2021 with activities including Project Compassion, the Vinnies Winter Sleepout and Christmas Appeal, making St Leo's the highest achieving fundraising school in NSW for the past three years in a row.

Students from Years 7-12 can express their passion to make a difference in our world by participating in activities with our Social Justice or Social Welfare Awareness Groups. Students are also encouraged to make an impact through our EarthCare Environmental Group and programs such as Clean4Shore.

Community outreach opportunities include Street Retreats in the city learning about homelessness, visits to local nursing homes and experiencing life in remote Indigenous communities through our partnership with Red Earth.



Our College Facilities – Ready for the Future

St Leo's recently completed an extensive \$30 million campus and technology upgrade, providing students with state-of-the-art facilities.

Our extensive facilities include:

- the new high-tech Mary MacKillop Centre for Creative and Performing Arts, Design, Technology and Hospitality, including:
 - a Dance theatre with retractable seating
 - separate Drama studio
 - art gallery and Visual Arts studios
 - specialty Music, rehearsal rooms and individual instrumental tuition rooms
 - two commercial-grade Hospitality kitchens
 - two large TAS workshops for woodwork
 - several large meeting and gallery spaces
 - numerous purposeful and flexible learning spaces
- The Light of Christ Centre – a multipurpose complex for over 1500 people used for indoor sports, assemblies, musical productions and a range of College functions and events
- a newly refurbished Chapel
- two full-sized sports ovals
- two large, shaded outdoor recreational areas and extensive surrounding natural bushland
- a new, well-equipped Library and Learning Hub with extensive study spaces
- newly refurbished canteen.





“ We offer a range of programs to ensure our students have the lifelong skills they need for a globalised world. ”

Preparing Students for the Future – Technology, Innovation & More

We have a distinct innovation and technology focus, offering a range of programs to ensure our students have the lifelong skills they need for success in a globalised world.

Technology is an integral part of daily learning at St Leo's, with individual student laptops and other learning technologies serving as important tools in developing critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication skills.

Our experience has found that technology-enabled teaching and learning allows for more active engagement and allows teaching to meet each student at their particular point of learning. Students are encouraged and provided with the tools and information to advance their skills in a safe environment.

Our innovative Pathways and Partnerships Program works with students and their families to navigate life beyond school, developing industry and higher education partnerships and opportunities, and shaping new offerings and approaches to learning at St Leo's.

We have an interdisciplinary approach to innovation, where students apply skills to make connections between school, community, work and the global

enterprise. We work with a range of industry experts on real-world applications and challenge-based learning activities to also foster collaboration, teamwork and other essential skills while having fun.

We run a number of technology-based co-curricular and extracurricular activities for students of all levels including robotics, software and coding opportunities.





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

Preparing Students for the Future – Infinite Opportunities

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

Overall, at St Leo's we are genuinely focussed on developing transferable Deep Learning Skills that will equip all our students for the future by creating curious lifelong learners able to adapt to and challenge an ever-changing world.

We firmly believe in and encourage the holistic growth of our students across the six St Leo's Growth Domains: Academic, Spiritual, Environmental, Physical, Social/Emotional and Cultural.

To enable this, we offer an extraordinary array of opportunities across all these Growth Domains for our students to find, explore and develop their passions into greatness. Just a small sample of our current opportunities include:

Leadership: Student Leadership programs; Ambassadors; Student Representative Council; Duke of Edinburgh program.

Academic: debating; public speaking; Chess Club; Da Vinci Decathlon; Maths and Science competitions; Bell Shakespeare; spelling competitions; Writing Club, Robotics and Coding; Spanish Club.

Pathways and Careers: a range of VET courses from Hospitality to Construction; Pathways workshops, seminars and programs for all year groups; WorldSkills competitions; TVET, SBAT and Cross Campus courses.

Social Justice: Street Retreats; EarthCare Environmental Group; Reconciliation activities; Youth Ministry and Social Justice and Social Welfare Awareness Groups; Vinnies School Conference; Vinnies Winter Sleepout; various charity and awareness days such as Caritas Project Compassion, R U OK? and Harmony Days; our partnership with Red Earth providing opportunities to experience life in remote Indigenous communities.

CAPA: an extraordinary 20+ co-curricular ensembles are offered to all our students free of charge, from Accordion group to our Performance Band, Drama, Photography and Art Club to our numerous Dance Ensembles.

Sport: A huge range of sports are offered as part of our weekly Sport for Life program. In addition, we have a tiered representative and high-performance program.



Beyond the Classroom – Creative & Performing Arts

The Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) are an integral part of the curriculum at St Leo's.

St Leo's CAPA specialises in Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts for Years 7 -12.

Our \$14M state-of-the-art Mary MacKillop Centre highlights our commitment to the arts and includes a dance theatre with fully retractable seating, art gallery and studios, along with dedicated orchestra, band and music rooms and a separate drama studio.

An exceptional music program includes various band, ensemble and choir programs, and an annual musical or drama production. Additionally, the College offers an impressive 20+ co-curricular CAPA Ensembles (free to all students) and specialist Private Music Tuition.

Our annual Showcase is an impressive community event featuring outstanding student HSC works across the spectrum of Creative and Performing Arts, Design and Technology.

St Leo's students regularly win awards and Eisteddfods, and are frequently invited to exhibit at ARTEXPRESS and ENCORE. Our exceptional, award-winning CAPA team is especially proud to have had several students offered places at NIDA over the past few years and to have achieved a First in State for HSC Drama in 2021.



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





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Beyond the Classroom – Sport for Life

St Leo's has a strong sporting culture, and enjoys huge success in various team and individual sports.

Students participate in a wide range of organised sporting events throughout the year including our regular weekday Sport for Life program, offering high-quality tiered sporting opportunities covering a broad selection of team and individual sports.

Our representative and high-performance sports programs allow talented athletes to progress to higher levels including regional, state and national levels and international tours.





To find out more about St Leo's, visit our website, join us for our annual Open Evening in late Term 1 each year, or contact us to arrange a tour at a time convenient to you.

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St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga