

# First steps

Belonging, being and becoming



Kindergarten  
2025 Drouin



# We're coming to Drouin!

## Welcome

### A New School Begins

From 2025, you will be able to access a St Paul's education at our new Kindergarten and Primary School in Drouin. Located on a beautiful elevated 36 acre site close to the freeway, the school's striking design will create a vibrant, contemporary learning environment and a welcoming place for the growing Drouin community. Purpose-built classrooms will be supplemented by outdoor play spaces that will creatively access and blend with the natural landscape to encourage exploration. The large site will also provide an outstanding opportunity to integrate elements of the outdoors into the curriculum.

Extending beyond excellent classroom teaching, St Paul's provides opportunities for children to broaden their learning with specialist teachers in a range of areas including Japanese, Performing Arts (Music/Drama/Dance), Visual Arts, Physical Education, Library and Christian Studies.

Detailed plans for the first building stage, including an Early Learning Centre (ELC) and the first Primary Classrooms, are now finalised. Earthworks will commence in late 2023, before building throughout the entirety of 2024 - ready to welcome students for the first day of school in 2025.

As the school develops, we will grow annually to reach Year 6. Students can then look forward to a guaranteed place at our Warragul Secondary School, one of Australia's leading regional schools which consistently achieves the best VCE results in Gippsland.

We look forward to getting to know you and your family and wish you all the best for an exciting learning journey for your child.

## Meet The Team

### Principal

Cameron Herbert joined St Paul's Anglican Grammar School as Principal in 2018, leading both our Warragul and Traralgon Campuses.

Cameron has an extensive career in primary and secondary education, having worked in a wide range of independent schools including St Mark's Anglican Community School (WA), The Southport School (QLD), Trinity Anglican School (QLD), Scotch Oakburn College (TAS), The Hutchins School (TAS) and Scotch College (WA).



**Cameron Herbert**

### Head Of School

Rowan van Raay has been Head of Warragul Junior School for the past 15 years. Prior to joining St Paul's, Rowan was Deputy Head of Junior School and a Classroom Teacher at Southwood Boys Grammar and was also a Classroom Teacher for six years at Haileybury College. This year, Rowan has completed a Master of Leadership at Deakin University.

Rowan will continue as Head of Warragul Junior School until the end of 2024, alongside his part-time responsibility as the Head of School at the Drouin Campus.



**Rowan van Raay**

### ELC Director

Richelle Harris is currently the Director of St Paul's Warragul ELC, having also worked at our Traralgon ELC. Richelle has previously worked in a variety of educational settings, including ten years at Mentone Girls' Grammar where she was Director of the Early Learning Centre.

Like Rowan, Richelle will commence full-time as Director of Drouin ELC from Term 1 2025.



**Richelle Harris**

### Enrolments Officer

Bonnie Cameron has been part of the St Paul's Enrolments team for over a year and is a strong believer in the value of an independent education. Along with a Bachelor of Communications qualification, Bonnie also has more than a decade's experience in marketing, sales and stakeholder engagement, and will take care of any enrolment questions you may have.



**Bonnie Cameron**

# The education journey begins

## A St Paul's Education

### Getting A Great Start

At the heart of St Paul's is the belief that happy students thrive. We know that the happiness of our students is of paramount importance, and we create an environment in which each learner feels included, respected and valued. Our teachers are kind, talented and dedicated to inspiring, educating and supporting each child to pursue their personal potential.

During the Early Years (Kindergarten through to Year 2), we take a best-practice play-based and inquiry approach to support every child's creativity, brain development and emotional intelligence. Utilising our teachers' expertise in our high-quality early learning programs, we support every child to achieve their purpose. We believe that children learn best through discovery and exploration, embedded within our nature play and kitchen garden programs. When children play, they are exploring their knowledge and understanding of the world. St Paul's classrooms are designed to provide captivating environments to engage our curious young learners and promote wellbeing.

The beginning of our learners' educational experience provides opportunities for wonder, excitement and creativity. With specialist subjects starting in Pre-Prep, our children have opportunities in Physical Education, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Library and Christian Studies as part of their St Paul's learning experience.

## Expert Educators Knowing Your Child

Our educators recognise and respond to the unique qualities of every child. Collectively they become co-learners

with the children, families and the community. Educators are also responsive to children's questions and ideas and develop ongoing projects based on their interests, stimulate their thinking and enrich their learning.

Our teachers are committed to best-practice and visionary teaching, providing innovative learning experiences to foster skills, values and attitudes that provide students with a lifelong love of learning. All students are encouraged to achieve 'personal excellence' within their individual set of abilities.

St Paul's Drouin foundation team will work closely with our Warragul and Traralgon teams to offer a consistent, seamless education and smooth transition for our secondary students. We will continue to deliver the dynamic and best-practice learning experience that defines a St Paul's education.

## Philosophy & Values A Unique Environment

St Paul's prides itself on offering a unique learning environment that not only provides an outstanding education but in addition develops each student in the spiritual, social, emotional, physical and intellectual domains.

We are a school where happiness comes first and success in whatever area your child chooses to pursue will follow. We support every child to pursue and achieve their personal best, whatever that may be.

We offer a safe, inclusive and caring environment, where thought can be expressed, achievement can be celebrated and where each student belongs to a community that supports them to achieve their potential.

Underpinning all of our actions are our ethos and the embedded values of:

- Wisdom
- Integrity
- Compassion
- Respect

## Spirituality

St Paul's is a happy Anglican school founded on the ethos and values of the Anglican Church. We nurture learners from all faiths and beliefs to pursue their potential.

We provide opportunities for every child to find and follow their purpose, and foster an environment where every faith and belief is respected and valued. We do not expect students, families or staff to share our Christian beliefs. Instead, we ask that our learners develop and share their perspectives on spirituality and faith with openness, respect and humility.

Our Anglican tradition is observed through chapel services and faith study which all students are required to attend. These provide a space for each student to experience encouragement and exploration of faith within a strong and supportive community.

## Acknowledgement Of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners as the original custodians of the land upon which we learn.

We acknowledge their elders, past and present and their children, who are their hope for the future.





## Happy students thrive

### Being Known Student Wellbeing

At St Paul's, student wellness is the focus and core purpose of each school day. We aim to understand the 'whole' child to create a meaningful connection between our students and staff.

Every student has access to education support staff, the school counsellors/psychologists and Chaplaincy staff to provide balance for our students to thrive, both as learners and as individuals. We understand that wellbeing is dynamic and our program changes to meet the unique needs of students.

The health and happiness of our students come first. We cultivate a safe, caring environment where each student is comfortable and can strive to achieve their personal best.

To give children physical freedom in their activities, the School Sports Uniform is worn from Pre-Kinder through to the end of Year 2.

From the very young learners in the Early Learning Centre (ELC) to the Year 6 students who are entering adolescence, St Paul's students are provided with an exciting and stimulating learning environment. We provide a comprehensive skills-based curriculum and an engaging and interesting co-curricular program that nurtures each and every student.

### Classroom Teachers

Students spend the majority of their school day with their classroom teachers, who quickly discover how each student learns, socialises and behaves. They are well-placed to identify any issues or concerns.

Classroom teachers are always available by email or by making an appointment to discuss your child's academic, social or emotional wellbeing.

Teachers and education support staff work together to ensure that all students feel valued and that the learning environment we offer is positive and caring.

### Growing With Your House

We are known for creating a sense of family amongst our students and staff through our house system.

Our school has four houses which form the foundation of interhouse activities and competitions. From Prep onwards, each student is allocated to a house, with members of the same family placed together.

Our houses are: Burgundy, Navy, Emerald and Gold.

### A Love Of Learning

We foster a love of learning in our students and develop their curiosity through an engaging curriculum, specifically designed to meet the needs of each individual learner.

Children learn through a variety of experiences and are able to extend their ideas and skills through interactive and hands-on learning both indoors and outside, creating a learning environment that inspires curiosity, collaboration and discovery.



# Belonging, Being & Becoming

## Pursuing Potential Philosophy & Pedagogy

Our Early Learning Centre embraces the belief that children, from birth, are curious, capable and equipped with the potential to learn and achieve. Through our purpose-built learning spaces, we provide a stimulating and engaging environment and curriculum underpinned by our Philosophy & Pedagogy. Our aim is to extend and enrich children's learning from ages three to five years and support their transition to school and a love of learning.

We offer early learning opportunities for exploration and discovery through an inclusive, play-based teaching program where the importance of communication, language, social and emotional development is promoted. Our practice is informed by the Victorian Early Years Learning Framework that characterises children's learning experiences and wellbeing through belonging, being and becoming.

We provide a safe and exciting environment for children, provoking wonder, creativity and thinking skills. The natural curiosity of each child is nurtured through the exploration of their ideas, individually and collaboratively, to enable them to extend their reasoning and make sense of the world around them.

Our high-quality teaching program equips children with the skills to connect with and contribute to their world, have a strong sense of identity and wellbeing, and be confident, effective communicators who are engaged learners.

Our spacious ELC encompasses indoor and outdoor play spaces which support children to explore, question, collaborate and reflect,

and actively encourages learners to develop their knowledge of sustainability and their role in protecting the environment.

Physical Education, Performing Arts and Library sessions led by St Paul's specialist teachers are embedded within our high-quality learning programs to stimulate each student's passion for learning beyond the classroom.

## Early Learning Victorian Early Years Learning Framework (VEYLF)

At St Paul's we embed the VEYLF and National Standards. This draws on conclusive international evidence that early childhood is a vital period in children's learning and development. Our programs ensure they have a specific emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language (including literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development. The VEYLF has been designed for use by early childhood educators working in partnership with families.

Fundamental to the VEYLF is a view of children's lives as characterised by belonging, being and becoming. From before birth children are connected to family, community, culture and place. Their earliest development and learning take place through these relationships, particularly within families, who are children's first and most influential educators. As children begin to participate in everyday life, they develop interests and construct their own identities and understanding of the world.

## The Reggio Emilia Project

Embedded within our ELC is the Reggio Emilia approach, the belief that every child is competent, full of possibilities and a protagonist in their own learning. Established in the northern Italian town, the philosophy of learning through a hundred languages has a worldwide reputation for forward thinking and excellence in its approach to early childhood education.

All children are born with infinite potential and create their own knowledge through exploration using the many 'languages' of childhood. We provide opportunities and support for all types of learners with all types of interests, recognising and celebrating every child's educational journey.



# Kindergarten

## Programs

### Pre-Kinder (3 Year Old)

We plan to offer a 3-Day Pre-Kinder program of a minimum of 15 hours over consecutive weekdays. Program days will be finalised during 2024.

### Pre-Prep (4 Year Old)

We plan to offer a 4-Day Pre-Prep program of a minimum of 18 hours over consecutive weekdays. Program days will be finalised during 2024.

## What Goes On!

### A Typical Day

#### 8:45am – 9:00am

- Welcome students into the ELC

#### 9:00am – 9:45am

- Outdoor play and exploration

#### 9:45am – 10:15am

- Morning meeting
- Acknowledgement of Country
- Shared stories and experiences
- Read aloud

#### 10:15am – 11:00am

- Exploring personal inquiries
- Inside play and exploration

#### 11:00am – 11:30am

- Morning tea

#### 11:30am – 12:45pm

- Specialist learning classes that may include Physical Education, Performing Arts, Visual Arts or Christian Studies
- Indoor/outdoor play and exploration
- Tabletop tasks

#### 12:45pm – 1:30pm

- School walk
- Music and movement
- Relaxation and yoga

#### 1:30pm – 2:00pm

- Lunch

#### 2:00pm – 3:00pm

- Shared stories
- Games/music and movement
- Whole class focus and discussion
- End of day meeting and reflection



# Specialist Subjects

## Beyond the Classroom Learning New Skills

Beginning from Pre-Prep, our students engage with our specialist programs across the following areas:

- Physical Education
- Library
- Performing Arts (Dance, Music and Drama)
- Visual Arts
- Christian Studies

As students enter primary school, they gradually engage with a broader range of specialist subjects.

Please refer to our 'Specialist Snapshot' later in this booklet for more information.

## Physical Education

Each week, students participate in a wide variety of activities. Our Health and Physical Education program focuses on the importance of a healthy lifestyle and physical activity in the lives of our students. It promotes the development of motor skills and movement competence, health-related physical fitness and sport education.

Engaging in physical activity, games and sport contributes to a sense of community and social connection.

Athletics and swimming carnivals are enjoyed by students from Prep to Year 12, and students in Years 3 through to Year 6 have the opportunity to represent St Paul's at interschool competitions.

## Library

All students attend one library session each week. Students learn about authors and illustrators as well as the parts of a book and different sections of the library.

Students in Years 3 to 6 are able to take advantage of the library's

literature appreciation resource and are taught the efficient and effective use of the computer catalogue system.

All students at the Junior School are encouraged to discover different books and genres, and are inspired to develop a love of reading.

## Visual Arts

The Visual Arts program provides opportunities for children to experience, develop, represent and understand ideas, emotions and values. They learn to take risks, be imaginative, question, explore, practise and refine techniques.

Within the Visual Arts program, your child will have the opportunity to experiment with a range of mediums and create a variety of 2D and 3D artworks. By exposing students to a vast assortment of art materials, they have an opportunity to discover and pursue their own creativity and flair.

## Performing Arts

Each year level from Prep to Year 6 has a weekly session in Performing Arts. There are also performing arts ensembles and clubs to which the students can belong. These groups perform at assemblies as well as our Performing Arts Concert.

Each year, all students are involved in a musical production at the West Gippsland Arts Centre, Warragul.

There are also opportunities for students to perform at school soirees, events or Eisteddfods. Students are able to access private music tuition across a wide range of instruments.

## Christian Studies

Our Christian Studies classes enable students to engage in values-based learning activities, which develop their sense of belief in themselves and a responsibility to their community. Our school's Christian ethos allows students to engage in messages of hope in a respectful and joyful environment.

## Japanese Language

The study of a second language is considered important at St Paul's and assists students with a smooth transition to Secondary School where LOTE (Language Other Than English) is taught as a compulsory subject.

From Prep to Year 2 our Japanese Language studies focus on broadening students' horizons by developing an awareness of another culture and highlighting our expectations around understanding diversity and difference.

In Years 3 to 6, students undertake Japanese Language lessons every week.





## All things outdoor

### All Things Outdoor

With plenty of space as our new campus grows and develops, our buildings will take advantage of the north-facing slope to create a range of indoor and outdoor spaces that complement learning and exploration

Our play spaces will creatively access and blend with the natural landscape to encourage outdoor exploration and are designed to develop skills in a range of outdoor pursuits.

### Nature Kinder

The Nature Kinder program is designed to give children opportunities to connect to nature within a holistic approach.

Taking place in outdoor spaces within the school grounds, the children are able to explore trees, bushes, dirt, sticks, seeds and mud, enabling them to use their imaginative and creative skills through play-based education.

The Nature Kinder program encourages each child to discover and explore, whilst respecting the natural environment and learning the importance of caring for nature.

### In The Outdoors

Outdoor play is a vital part of the learning experience in our program. Through all kinds of weather, students are encouraged to dress appropriately and engage with the landscape in all its forms.

Our educators design learning experiences that integrate and celebrate our beautiful outdoor learning environment.

Learning in a natural environment can enhance relationships with

others and the environment, and promote personal growth in self-awareness, self-confidence, teamwork and leadership through challenge and adventure.

### Built Environment

Climbing, reaching, stepping, hiding, swinging and hanging are encouraged to assist in the development of balance and range of movement. A variety of simple metal and wood structures allow children to gain these skills over time as they build confidence and physical strength.

### Kitchen Garden

In the future we will establish a 'hands-on' Kitchen Garden program using the well-known Stephanie Alexander model.

The garden will serve as a collaborative learning hub for the whole school, with participation by students across various year levels who will learn 'by doing' about garden construction, planting, harvesting and the subsequent cooking of produce.





# Our partnership with parents

## Communication Partnerships

We work in partnership with the student, teacher and parents – and are committed to providing proactive and responsive communication to parents. We recognise that parents are the first educators in their child's life and continue to support and provide knowledge for the development of their future lives.

## Daily Updates

Educators in our ELC communicate daily with parents and carers at the beginning and end of each day. We encourage families to speak with us about any concerns as soon as they arise, and to keep our educators advised of any issues that may affect the children at home.

As students move into primary school, communication with parents occurs through the diary system or by direct emails or calls to ensure that parents and carers are kept informed as key contributors to their child's education.

## MyStPauls Portal

Our learning management system, MyStPauls, provides constant information, calendar dates and information for parents to support their child's learning experience. It is useful to regularly check our Junior School Campus page for valuable information and access posts about our classroom programs, exciting learning activities and photos of our wonderful students.

## Grammarian

Every fortnight we publish an online school newsletter 'The Grammarian' which contains information regarding upcoming events and opportunities available to you and your child. The newsletter is a resource for our community to celebrate special events and personalised learning achievements.

## Teacher Contact

All parents are welcome to contact our teachers and leadership team, we do however recommend booking an appointment if you wish to privately speak to one of our team for a considerable amount of time.

## Family Involvement Visiting The Classroom

Parents and carers are welcome to visit the ELC and primary school throughout the year.

In accordance with our school policy, parents participating in school activities must provide the school with a current Working with Children's Check, have completed the school's Child Safety Modules and undertaken a 'Parent Helper' briefing.

## Going Beyond Child Safety

We are committed to providing a safe, caring environment for all learners to feel valued, celebrated and respected. Our students, staff and parents work in unison to provide a learning journey where each child is always safe and we have well-embedded structures to ensure this.

## Respectful Relationships

We believe everyone in our community deserves to be respected, valued, and treated equally. Embedding this culture within our students, staff and environment leads to positive impacts on students' academic outcomes, their mental health, classroom behaviour and relationships between teachers and students. We encourage respect and equality, and work to ensure every child has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.



## Discovering themselves

### Co-curricular Options

As ELC students progress into primary school, students begin to participate in a variety of co-curricular activities, clubs and competitions beyond their classroom curriculum offerings.

All activities and clubs are facilitated by teachers and respond to the current interests and passions of students.

#### Activities

- AFL
- Art and Craft Club
- Band
- Basketball
- Bike Ed Team
- Book Club
- Celtic Club
- Choir
- Cricket
- Dance Club (Mixed)
- Dodge Ball Club
- Drama Club
- Gardening Club
- Hot Shot Tennis Netball
- Robotics Club
- Scooter Club
- Ski Camp
- String Orchestra
- Soccer
- Symphonic Band
- Technology Club
- Vocal Group

#### Competitions

- Athletics
- Australian Mathematics Competition
- Bike Ed Challenge
- Cricket T20 Blast
- Equestrian
- Hoop Time Basketball
- House Athletics
- House Cross Country
- House Swimming
- ICAS English
- ICAS Mathematics
- ICAS Science
- ICAS Spelling
- Lions Public Speaking
- Maths Olympiad
- RoboCup
- Short Story Writing Competition
- Tournament of Minds
- Vicspell
- Winter Round Robin Sports Competition

*Co-curricular options are subject to change, may be based on student numbers, may be year-level dependent or may alternate every two years. Clubs alternate each term.*

### Leadership & Service

We take pride in watching our students become confident, articulate and resourceful young leaders capable of contributing to the wider community. As they progress through primary school, we offer a range of leadership, service and fundraising opportunities.

- Co-curricular Captains
- House Captains
- School Captains
- Student Buddies
- Student Leaders
- Student Representative Council
- Tour Guides



# Everything in one place!

## Little Lorikeets Playgroup

Our Little Lorikeets Playgroup is led by qualified early childhood teachers, who facilitate a play-based indoor-outdoor program within our beautiful purpose-built facilities.

The program includes activities such as music time, story time and craft, all designed to support children's growth at various stages of development.

Children will explore early literacy and numeracy concepts, and be introduced to some of the specialist areas on offer at St Paul's.

Little Lorikeets Playgroup is a fabulous opportunity for families to network and for children to connect with their peers while developing new friendships in a fun and relaxing environment.

**Little Lorikeets will run on a Tuesday from 9:30am-11:00am at the Drouin Golf Club.**

## Visiting Professionals Allied Health Services

St Paul's partners with a range of speech therapists, occupational therapists, psychologists, counsellors and educational experts to provide on-site services.

## Out Of Hours Care

We will be offering an independent Out Of Hours Care service at our Drouin Campus from commencement.

This program will offer before and after school care and a school holiday program.

Operating independently from St Paul's, the service will provide care to children aged between four and twelve years of age, utilising our spacious classrooms, playgrounds and facilities.

The before school care program will offer care from 6:45am to 8:45am every weekday.

After school care provision will offer care from 3:00pm to 6:00pm.

The school holiday program operates every week day from 6.45am to 6.00pm.

### 2024 Indicative Charges

*(Costs subject to change by the provider).*

Before School Care \$35 per day

After School Care \$43 per day

Holiday Full Day \$103 per day

## 2024 Key Dates For Enrolled Families

**16 October 2024**

Drouin Junior School Information Evening



# A Specialist Snapshot

## Extending Young Minds

### Pre-Prep

- Visual Arts
- Sport and Physical Education
- Christian Studies
- Performing Arts (Dance, Music and Drama)

### Prep to Year 2

- Language (Japanese)
- Visual Arts
- Health and Physical Education
- Prep-2 Sport
- Christian Studies
- Performing Arts (Dance, Music and Drama)
- Library
- Strings (Year 2)
- STEM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- English
- Humanities (History, Geography, Economics)
- Buddies (Prep)
- Students also attend Chapel and assembly sessions each fortnight

### Year 3 to Year 6

- Visual Arts
- Health and Physical Education
- Sport
- Christian Studies
- Performing Arts (Dance, Music and Drama)
- Library
- Language (Japanese)
- Kitchen Garden
- Symphonic Band (Year 5)
- Rock and Water
- Year 6 Community Service
- STEM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- English
- Humanities (History, Geography, Economics)
- Buddy Program
- Academy of Music (from Year 4)
- Students also attend Chapel and assembly sessions each week

All students from Prep to Year 6 have access to iPads or laptops in the classroom.

**To learn more, please contact:**  
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