



# It's time!

## Starting Primary School



Prep to Year 2  
2024 Traralgon



# The education journey begins

## Welcome From The Principal

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.

The early years in our Junior School is where a love of learning takes shape. These vital early years of education provide various experiences to develop core skills along with the development of thinking, communication, research and social skills, and self-management. Our Prep classrooms are designed to provide captivating environments to engage our curious young learners and promote wellbeing.

Literacy and numeracy skills are vital during these early years and our St Paul's Explicit Teaching model provides the best possible start for all Junior School students, helping them engage with and master the core foundational skills. This research-based approach is supported with instruction in thinking and problem-solving and allows younger students to thrive in all subject areas.

Students build their knowledge across a broad curriculum and range of experiences. Visual Arts, Music and Drama develop interest in the Performing Arts, while Physical Education provides important physical and team-building outlets. Students explore and learn about the world around them in Science and Humanities classes. Computer Science, Library, Christian Studies and Japanese further complement the program.

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

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.

**Cameron Herbert**  
Principal

## Philosophy & Values

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 Gunaikurnai people 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 their 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 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.

We cultivate a safe, caring environment where each student is comfortable and can strive to achieve their personal best.

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.

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

Staff work together to ensure that all students feel valued, and that the learning environment we offer is positive and caring.

The individual care of students remains at the forefront of each school day. Getting to know the 'whole' child enables staff to meet their individual needs and assist them to thrive.

## 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.

## 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. Each student is allocated to a house, with members of the same family placed together.

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

## Play Is The Way

Our school utilises the *Play is the Way* program from the ELC through to Year 6. *Play is the Way* is a social and emotional learning methodology using physically interactive games and activities, five guiding concepts, an empowering self-reflective language and six key virtues that form a pathway to empathy.

- Be brave: participate to progress.
- It takes great strength to be sensible.
- Pursue your personal best no matter who you work with.
- Have reasons for the things you say and do.
- Treat others as you would like to be treated.





## 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

Communication with parents occurs through the diary system or by direct emails or phone 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.

MyStPauls also provides access to our continuous online reporting, giving parents and carers regular updates and feedback about how each student is progressing.

During any periods that require online learning, we have proven ourselves adept at ensuring student learning continues seamlessly via MyStPauls and Microsoft Teams.

### 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 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 Volunteer' 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.

### 2025 Transition Important Dates

**Prep Information Night**  
16 October

**Prep Play Afternoons**  
23 October  
30 October

**Transition Sessions**  
6 November  
13 November  
20 November  
27 November

**Orientation Day**  
4 December



# Getting ready for Prep!

## How to Prepare 7 Steps to Transition

Starting school is a significant and exciting milestone in a child's life. At St Paul's, the extended Prep Transition Program encourages children to be eager to start school, creates enjoyable memories and provides an excellent beginning to their learning journey.

In addition, our Prep staff spend some of their planning time in the Early Learning Centre and external Kindergartens, where they mix with and get to know the students they will be teaching the following year.

### 1. Information Session

An Information Session is held for families in October. During this session, the teachers will provide a 'Handbook' that will include information about the School, subjects and tips to read over the Christmas break, to help make the transition to school a little smoother.

### 2. Play Afternoons

You and your child are invited to two play afternoons in October where your child can become familiar with the Prep environment. These informal sessions allow children to talk to Prep teachers and play with each other, all in a nurturing friendly environment.

### 3. Transition Days

The Transition Days span four weeks during November and early December. On these days your child will participate in specialised activities that are designed to bring out their confidence as they transition to school. They will begin to develop an understanding of what takes place during a school day, making the

thought of change less worrisome.

During the first session, students are presented with their special hats at an official 'Hat Ceremony' and parents are invited to stay for morning tea. This is a great opportunity to meet the parents of other Prep-age students. An orientation is held as the final transition activity and students spend the day at school.

### 4. Buddy Program

The Buddy Program commences during transition and continues into Term 1. The Years 3 to 5 Buddies are a friendly mentor to our young learners as they start school. Completing a variety of activities together, Buddies forge friendships, connections and memories that last for years to come.

### 5. Personalised Meeting

In December you will have the opportunity to have a one-on-one discussion with your child's Prep teacher. Here, teachers will learn more about your child to understand them better and determine any underlying needs as they make

the big step to primary school. This personalised meeting also allows our teachers to provide you with important information about starting Prep and helps to alleviate any residual fears your child may have about the change.

### 6. Early Finish

Prep students finish at 3:00pm during their first few days of school, leaving prior to the rest of the student body and allowing them to establish some routine before merging with older students.

### 7. Rest Day Wednesdays

Within the first four weeks of the school year starting, Wednesdays are a rest day and children are invited to come in for an assessment on one of these days. This assessment provides our educators with useful insight and knowledge about your child.





## Prep – all about learning

### Strong Foundations Curriculum

At the heart of St Paul's are students' health and happiness. We foster a love of learning in our students to develop their curiosity through an engaging Prep curriculum, specifically designed to meet the needs of each individual learner.

The Prep year is crucial in building strong foundations for the rest of the primary years. Accordingly, our educational programs at these levels focus on literacy and numeracy skills and educational support is provided each day within the Prep classroom.

Social behaviours such as courtesy, manners and respect for others and our environment are integral features of our teaching programs. Independence is fostered in learning, joining in activities and making friends.

We recognise that students bring with them a wealth of experiences and learning from which they develop an understanding of how the world works. These understandings become a starting point for the teaching and learning process. Our role is to encourage effort, and to challenge and build upon these skills and understandings.

### A Love Of Learning In The Classroom

Prep children are immersed in a diverse range of studies in the classroom which cater to their individual needs and interests. Each day is divided into five sessions, with breaks for recess and lunch and the curriculum immerses children in Literacy, Numeracy and Humanities/STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

Our curriculum provides students with the opportunity to learn through exploration in both indoor and outdoor spaces, fostering a lifelong love of learning among our students.

Preps attend specialist classes of:

- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Physical Education
- Japanese Language
- Christian Studies
- Chapel
- Assembly
- Library
- Wellbeing

### Building Connection

Commencing at transition, our Buddy Program partners Preps with Year 3–5 students who support their transition into primary school. The Buddies continue to strengthen their relationships through Year 1 and Year 2, supporting your child's transition into primary school.

In addition to providing company and creating supportive connections, Buddies help your child quickly establish a sense of belonging in their new environment. Buddies offer encouragement and a friendly face in the playground that often evolves into a very special bond.

All students participate in Chapel services and assemblies, broadening their experience and providing an understanding of their place in the school.

### Meet The Team



**Tracey King**

Head of Junior School



**Rick Battista**

Deputy Head of Junior School



**Sarah Berryman**

Prep Teacher 2024



**Lauren Vercoe**

Prep Teacher 2024

# Specialist Subjects

## Beyond the Classroom 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 sports 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 the School at Inter-School competitions. Students can also participate in after school sports such as netball, indoor soccer and basketball. Through parent support we have a wide range of age groups who compete for the school in local competitions.

## Library

From Pre-Kinder to Year 6, students participate in weekly library classes with a qualified Teacher Librarian. They develop a wide knowledge of the physical and digital resources available in young adult, picture book and non-fiction genres, and how to access and use them effectively for a variety of purposes. The curriculum is carefully sequenced to include the five core Information Literacy (IL) skills; identify, find, evaluate, apply and acknowledge. In the early years, students learn how to access resources in their physical form before moving onto digital resources and databases. Students build their critical thinking skills while identifying what knowledge is needed and how to find the relevant information. As they progress,

students learn to evaluate the material in a more concise manner and begin to understand the basics of acknowledging their sources. All students in the Junior School are encouraged to discover a wide range of books and genres and are inspired to develop a love of reading. The library is open at lunchtime for students to engage in quiet reading and library-related activities.

## 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, practice and refine techniques. The Visual Arts curriculum is based on The Seven Elements of Art, starting with shape, colour and line in Prep and Year 1, advancing to form and texture in Years 2 and 3, and emphasising value and space in Years 4 to 6. Lessons include art history, terminology, and hands-on activities with various mediums. Students showcase their artworks in the Term 4 Art Showcase, which celebrates their artistic growth.

## Performing Arts

A dynamic Performing Arts program including music, drama and dance nurtures young talents while providing opportunities to participate in choirs, ensembles and performance events such as soirées, Eisteddfods and school concerts as well as the annual musical production. As students learn about music theory by exploring a variety of instruments, opportunities arise to create music and develop their performance skills. There are opportunities for students to perform at school soirées, events or Eisteddfods. Students are also able to access private music tuition across a wide range of instruments.

## Band/Strings

Students in Year 2 undertake lessons in the String Program where they are allocated an instrument and tuition. Year 5 students have the opportunity to learn a brass or woodwind concert band instrument. Every student is provided with an instrument to practise at home. The classes combine tutorials, in which specialist teachers in each instrument demonstrate and assist the students, with band sessions where they join together for performances. Many students choose to participate in individual instrumental lessons and then join one of our numerous musical ensemble groups. The Performing Arts program equips students with musical skills and opens doors to extraordinary musical experiences, enriching their educational journey and fostering a lifelong love for the arts.

## 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. Years Prep to 6 students undertake Japanese Language lessons on a weekly basis.

## 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.



## Each child is unique

### Enrichment & Support Personalised Learning

We recognise that every student is an individual, with skills and abilities that are unique to them. While support and enrichment occur in every classroom, some students may benefit from a greater amount of support or differentiation in pace, level, and content from the regular curriculum and others may have strengths that are important to identify and foster. Regardless of your child's needs, we will encourage and support them in their learning in every way possible.

Through early and systematic assessment processes, students' individual capacities are identified early in the year to offer maximum benefit. The decision about which students access support and enrichment programs is a joint process between classroom teachers, specialist staff and parents. It is intended that students utilise the programs over varying periods of time, depending on their individual needs and circumstances.

The objective is to ensure the individual needs of every child are catered for, that learning is personalised to them, and that they are given every opportunity to not only achieve their personal best but to thrive.

### Endeavour Program

The Endeavour Program aims to inspire and ignite student learning – uncovering and unearthing passion areas of inquiry and investigation. Small groups of students are able to extend and challenge themselves in critical and creative thinking.

Elective options are generated by students, staff and community members. Students select two or three areas of interest to pursue, and these preferences directly shape the content for the semester. Electives run on a semesterly basis, with one hour each week dedicated to deliver a carefully crafted program that encourages rigour, robust discussion and meaningful learning.

Creative, critical and reflective thinking skills are explicitly taught and incorporated in each elective, helping to facilitate a common language across the upper years of primary school.

A Student Expo is the culminating event each semester where students share, collaborate and reflect upon their learnings and successes.





# Discovering themselves



## Co-curricular Options

Students 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.

### Clubs

- Art Club
- Coding Club
- Cricket Club
- Dance Club
- Drawing Club
- Gardening Club
- Homework Club
- Japanese Calligraphy Club
- Lego Club
- Origami Club
- Robotics Club
- Science Club
- Choir

### Activities

- Arts Showcase
- Choir
- Hoop Time Basketball
- Kanga Cricket
- Musical
- Net Set Go
- Poets on Parade
- Relay For Life
- Responsible Pet Ownership
- Show Band
- Show Choir
- Simultaneous Storytime
- STEM Wetlands
- String Orchestra
- Symphonic Band
- Wheel Chair Basketball
- Wildlife Incursion
- Years 2 Strings
- Year 5 Band

### Competitions

Students will be invited to compete in a range of formal competitions throughout the year:

- Drama Eisteddfod
- House Athletics
- House Cross Country
- House Swimming
- ICAS English

- ICAS Mathematics
- ICAS Science
- ICAS Spelling
- Latrobe Valley Eisteddfod
- RoboCup Competition
- Rotary International Community
- Youth Award
- Vicspell
- Vocal Eisteddfod

*Co-curricular options are subject to change, may be based on student numbers, may be year level dependant 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 Leaders
- Student Buddy
- Student Leaders
- Student Representative Council
- Tour Guides



## Everything in one place!

### Little Lorikeets

#### Playgroup

We believe every child is a unique, competent and capable individual, who can learn and develop to reach their full potential. We aim for all cultures, abilities and interests to be promoted and respected.

Little Lorikeets Playgroup allows families to be part of St Paul's Junior School and Early Learning Centre and is influenced by the St Paul's Early Learning Centre's philosophy.

Little Lorikeets is led by qualified early childhood teachers, who deliver safe and productive indoor-outdoor programs 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.

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 runs from 9:15am to 10:45am on Mondays and Tuesdays during 2024.**

### 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

An independent service, Club House Boot Camp, offers before and after school care and a school holiday program at each of our campuses.

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

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

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

The school holiday program operates every weekday from 6:45am to 6:00pm.

#### 2024 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

Find out more by visiting our website.

# A Specialist Snapshot

## Extending Young Minds Prep to Year 2

- Visual Arts
- Health and Physical Education
- Prep-2 Sport
- Christian Studies
- Performing Arts (Music)
- Library
- Language (Japanese)
- STEM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- Strings (Year 2)
- Students also attend Chapel and assembly sessions each week.



## Year 3 to Year 6

- Visual Arts
- Health and Physical Education
- Sport
- Christian Studies
- Performing Arts (Music)
- Library
- Language (Japanese)
- STEM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- Students also attend Chapel and assembly sessions each week.
- Band Program
- Extension Program
- Buddies
- Academy of Music (From Year 4)
- Endeavour Program

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

**To learn more, please contact:**  
**Bonnie Cameron on 5175 0133 or email**  
**[enrolments@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au](mailto:enrolments@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au)**



Early Learning  
**Prep to Year 2**



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