

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AT ENROLMENT INTERVIEWS

Q. My child is not Catholic. Can they still enrol at Sacred Heart School, Sandgate?

A. *Sacred Heart School, Sandgate is a parish Catholic primary school. We are neither an independent school nor a private school. We exist to nurture the faith of children as well as providing a balanced education that targets the academic, physical, social and emotional development of the individual child. It is our expectation that parents who are considering enrolling their child at Sacred Heart are supportive of the ethos of Catholic education.*

We are committed to ensuring that sufficient members of the school community are Catholic in faith so that the faith-nurturing role of the school can freely occur. We work within the boundaries that the further enrolment of non-catholic students within our school does not jeopardise the Catholic character of the school community nor jeopardise the inclusion of any Catholic students who may wish to attend Sacred Heart School.

Q. How many children will be in my child's class at Sacred Heart School?

A. *We believe at Sacred Heart in student/teacher ratios that make it possible to address the needs of each individual child. We endeavour to keep class sizes from Prep to Years 3 to a maximum of 25 children, with class sizes in Years 4, 5, and 6 at a maximum of 30 children.*

Q. Can my boy remain at Sacred Heart School until Year 6 should that be our wish?

A. *We strongly encourage that all students remain at Sacred Heart School for all their primary schooling years. In the local area there is a trend that boys leave the parish schools at the end of Year 4 and opt to a single-sex order-owned school for Years 5 – 12.*

We believe we have a lot to offer both boys and girls in their primary school from Prep to Year Six. This we believe is particularly so in the areas of student leadership, socialisation, emotional development and the teaching of mutual respect between boys and girls. In the end, we will support a parent's right to make the best decision for their child.

Q. At enrolment time will my child be formally assessed?

A. *It is our belief that any assessment undertaken at the time of enrolment would not provide an accurate picture of a child's ability. They will be somewhat nervous & our aim at the interview is to assure them that the school is a friendly & welcoming community & a place where they can feel safe. There is plenty of time after your child begins with us for us to conduct formal assessments.*

Especially for Prep children, we believe that any assessment run at the time of enrolment will not provide accurate data about your child due to

their age & their rate of developmental progress. They will change & grow dramatically before they begin school with us. Let them 'be children' – run, play, explore, wonder, talk – that's how they will learn best! When they come for their Orientation Day & on their (voluntary) subsequent visits to our school in November we will observe them in action, playing & working with their peers. These observations provide us with far more valuable data than any formal assessments will at this stage.

Q. What is taught at Sacred Heart?

A. *We have 9 learning areas in Queensland Catholic Schools: Religion, Maths, Science, SOSE (Studies of Society and the Environment), The Arts, Technology, Health and PE, CLL (Cultural Literacy and Languages), English.*

CLL is offered from Prep to Years 6 through the study of Japanese. We offer a classroom music program, an integrated arts program and a physical education program to all classes from Prep to Year 6. Specialist teachers are employed to deliver these programs.

Q. What help is there for my child should they encounter difficulty in their learning?

A. *At Sacred Heart each teacher writes their programs keeping foremost in their planning the needs of the individuals within their class.*

We also have the services of a two Support Teachers – Inclusive Education for 3 days per week. Their role is to assist the classroom teacher and classroom teacher-aides to work with children either individually or in groups to address learning needs.

We also have the services of a Guidance Officer. Her role is to assist children with a range of issues from emotional needs to academic evaluations.

The Student Support Team, comprising of a child's teacher, the Principal, the Learning Support Teacher and Guidance Officer meeting as required to discuss how we can best address the learning and emotional needs of identified individual children with the school. Parents of the children experiencing difficulty or requiring extension are also strongly encouraged to attend.

Q. What does Sacred Heart School, Sandgate offer in terms of opportunities for Physical activity?

A. *Each term we offer the children not only their designated Physical Education lesson but also instruction in another physical endeavour.*

In Term 1 all classes undertake lessons in 'music & movement; Term 2 – Prep to Year 3 participate in sports skills activities based at their level of development (Sporty Shorty) whilst Year 4 to Year 6 represent the school in competitive sport; Term 3 – all classes undertake gymnastic lessons, and in Term 4 all classes undertake swimming lessons.

Our school participates in Cross Country, Swimming, Athletics, Touch football, Netball & AFL against other schools.

Q. What format does the day take?

A. *We begin school at 8.25am. Children can arrive at school from 8am onwards. Any children arriving prior to 8am must go to OSHC.*

Lunch is at 10.45am in keeping with sun safety guidelines and continues until 11.30am.

Our "middle session" commences at 11.30am and concludes at 1.45pm with afternoon tea.

The afternoon session is from 2:00pm until 2:45pm when we go home. The children are supervised for pick up until 3:10pm. Any child remaining after 3.10pm must go to OSHC.

Q. Is parent help encouraged within the school?

A. *Parents are partners in the education process with the teaching staff. We therefore welcome parents to play an active part in our school. This may take many forms – helping with classroom activities particularly reading and art; helping on tuckshop; responding to specific requests for assistance in the school weekly newsletter, being active in the Parents and Friends Association, attending our weekly assemblies, working bees – just to name a few.*

Q. Why are we asked to go to the school office first each time we enter the school?

A. *As we endeavour to do our utmost to keep all the children in our school safe, all school visitors must report to the school office to "sign in". We then know who is in our school building at any one time. In the event of an emergency (eg: evacuation) we are then also able to account for everybody.*

Q. How do we find out about booklists, uniforms etc.?

A. *The Information Pack you will receive contains sheets detailing the uniform requirements. As soon as booklists are finalised these will be forwarded to you for ordering.*

We operate our own uniform shop here at the school. Our school secretaries can provide more information in this area.

Q. Why do we need to pay school fees?

A. *As the Government only partially funds Catholic schools, school fees form a part of the agreement you make when enrolling your child at Sacred Heart School. It is an expectation that all families within our school community will financially contribute to our school community.*

- Q. What is the Administration fee?**
A. *The Administration Fee is payable by all new families to our school and is non-refundable. This fee assists us in covering the costs associated with the processing of applications.*
- Q. What is the Enrolment fee?**
A. *The Enrolment fee is a "holding fee" and guarantees your child's place within our school. This fee is payable by all new enrolments and is also non-refundable. This fee is deducted from your child's first term's school fees.*
- Q. What is the "disclosure statement" at the end of the enrolment form?**
A. *This statement, signed by the parents enrolling a child states that the parents have provided all information regarding their child (including all relevant medical conditions, all relevant educational and psychological test results and any suspected on-going conditions and/or testing that may influence your child's educational and social progress with the education system.*
- A "Special Needs Enrolment" process may be required for some children based on the information provided. This allows the school to be sure that we can offer the child the very best support in their schooling and allows the parent to be sure that Sacred Heart School is the best possible placing for their child.*
- Q. When will my child be allocated a class and a teacher?**
A. *This process does not occur until mid-October when numbers of children, numbers of teachers and class spread of children is clearly identified. Only then can we begin to finalise class allocations.*
- Q. I've heard Sacred Heart School has some multi-age classes. What are they and will my child be in one?**
A. *If you are unsure what multi-age classes are please ask during your interview. We endeavour to work with parents in ensuring the best possible placement for children, so please consider these possibilities.*

We hope that this has answered some of your queries about our school. Please feel free to clarify these questions or to ask any others you may have during your interview time.

