

ST. MARY MACKILLOP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staying Connected No. 2, 21st February, 2025

Hello Everyone,

I trust your children have settled into the school year well and they are adjusting to the routines of school day which starts from arising in the morning. It's a big world for our children to navigate. Our job as educators, working in partnership with you, the parents, is to support them as they make their way forward and begin to find their place in the world. The dynamics of relationships beyond the security of the home is a challenge for all of us, let alone young children. We need to model the way and be there to listen to them and support them in any way we can.

Our attitude to the day can influence a child significantly. If a child is greeted with a smile in the morning, they are more likely to smile and have a good day. The messages we give children with words and with expressions embed in a child's mind. Our responsibility as parents and educators is immense.

Of great concern is the impact of social media on children. Unfortunately, the messages children receive from social media are often more profound than what we teach them.

We must be available to our children. We need to put down our phones and spend time with our children. We need to let them run free and play outside, rather than them be online from the moment they arrive home.

Online bullying is a major crisis in the world today. Do your children really need to be in online chats? Monitor their use of devices and know what is going on for them in these contexts. This bullying happens after hours, as many controls are in place at school. Check in regularly and make sure everything is okay.

We will focus on keeping our children safe in further newsletters.

'Make kindness the norm.'

I work with the Year Six children as their Faith and Life Coach. Our theme for this term is *'Make kindness the norm'*. We are exploring what kindness looks like. The children are currently constructing a matrix which outlines and reminds them of a number of simple acts of kindness which they can practice every day. I will publish this matrix when it is completed.

What we do know is that any act of kindness, no matter how big or how small can make a difference, especially when done intentionally.

We can look to St. Mary MacKillop who was the epitome of kindness. We know that Mary ***never saw a need without doing something about it.***



SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2025

We congratulate our recently elected School Captains for 2025.

SCHOOL CAPTAINS 2025

- Aidan Atkinson
- Amelia Clements
- Zulum Ikediashi

VICE-CAPTAINS 2025

- Mietta DeLuca
- Briana De Vellis
- Alyssa Georgiou

These six outstanding young people have a crucial role in supporting me in leading the school. Their insight provides greater clarity around what needs addressing in our school and most importantly they are called to live by the example of St. Mary MacKillop who said, ***“We must teach more by example than by word”.***

In acknowledging our elected captains, I also congratulate the other 10 applicants who applied for the roles. Any of the nominees could have done the job. They were all excellent applications as they are all fine young people.

We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful Class of Year Six Students 2025.

We will be presenting the 2025 Captains with their badges at our School Assembly at 9:00 am on Monday 24 February. All are welcome to attend the assembly which is held every week at this time.

REST IN PEACE

We were saddened to hear that Fr. John O’Reilly passed away on Friday 7 February 2025. Fr. O’Reilly was known to many of you. He was a good man and a visionary leader. He was Parish Priest of Sacred Heart, St Albans for many decades. He was responsible for the foundation of a number of our neighbouring schools; Emmaus in Sydenham, Cana in Hillside, Holy Eucharist in St Albans South, St. Paul’s in Kealba, the Federation of Catholic Regional College, and our very own school, (St.) Mary MacKillop, Keilor Downs. Catholic education and many Catholics in the North Western suburbs of Melbourne owe this great priest a debt of gratitude for his pastoral care and vision that has seen so many children and young men and women educated in the Catholic tradition. May his soul rest in peace as he receives the heavenly reward he so deserves.

“May God be praised for all things.” (Mary MacKillop 23.02.1870)

PRINCIPALS AWARDS 2025

Have a good week everybody.

Warm regards,



Anthony McCluskey
Principal

2025 Term Dates

**Term 1: 31 January-04 April 2025
(Good Friday 18 April-Easter Monday 21 April)**

Term 2: 22 April-04 July 2025

Term 3: 21 July-19 September 2025

**Term 4: 6 October-16 December 2025
(Year 6 finish Friday 12 December)**



St. Mary MacKillop Primary School is committed to child safety. We believe all students deserve, as a fundamental right, safety and protection from all forms of abuse and neglect.

PLAYGROUND USE BEFORE SCHOOL – REMINDER

Please note that all of the Junior and Senior Adventure Playgrounds are **not to be used before school.**



This is the Junior Adventure playground.
It is only for use by students from Prep to Year 2.



The climbing frames can be used by all students.

This is the Senior Adventure Playground.
It is only for students in Years 3 – 6.



Parents are required to actively watch their children when using the equipment after school.

Swimming Trials

On Wednesday, 12th February, many of our Year 4-6 students travelled to Sunshine Leisure Centre to compete in trials for the SMMPS Swimming Team. Students showcased their skills in Freestyle, Breaststroke, Backstroke, and Butterfly, giving their best effort in the pool.

We are so proud of their performances and can't wait to finalise our team for the upcoming District Carnival!

A huge thank you to our wonderful parent helpers for their support on the day.

GO MARY MAC!

Check out the action below:



Grade 4's

'Mad About Science' Incursion

The Grade 4's Inquiry Unit this term is Simple Machines. We had an amazing experience learning about 'How machines work'.

We got to experience a range of different simple machines and how they work, in particular a wedge, lever, wheel and axle, pulley, inclined plane and screws.

We learnt that complex machines include more than one simple machine. We were exposed to new vocabulary such as force, pivot and fulcrum.

We even got to make our own catapult which uses a lever and a pulley!



The Year Two children were immersed in a wonderful incursion exploring how objects move. They participated in three different rotations where they were able to use push and pull forces to direct and steer, they created their own moving objects using washers, nuts, bolts and wheels as well as build their own scooter.

push

My favourite part was pushing and pulling to help steer my billy cart!

force



“I learnt how friction changes the speed of something when it moves” Ayden

“Push and pull helps you change the direction when you’re moving” Dimitri

“Washer and nuts help the wheels stay straight and turn and axles hold the wheels on cars” Gabriel



YEAR ONE RHYTHMS OF WEST AFRICA INCURSION

On Thursday the 20th of February, the Year Ones participated in the Rhythms of West Africa incursion as part of our Inquiry unit.

Kofi was born in Ghana and taught us the importance of music in the African culture. We practised playing the drums to the beat and making sounds softer or louder.

All the students enjoyed meeting Kofi and had lots of fun playing songs like 'Waka Waka' on the drums!



Live Your Best Life in Love...

A Marriage Encounter weekend is for you...

Every married couple deserves this very special weekend. Time-out to nurture your most precious relationship away from daily distractions. The two of you will come away from your weekend feeling more deeply connected and with tools to help keep the passion alive. No group sharing required. The weekend is based around Catholic values. Couples of all faiths are welcome.

Please check our website for more details and to book your special weekend: Our next weekend is: **25-27 April 2025** at St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.

Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm

Information/Bookings: Phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or
Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au

REMINDERS

- The basketball court is used as a carpark in the morning and afternoon. The safety of our children is of utmost importance and therefore I ask that you take extra care when driving in the carpark areas. The speed limit is **5km per hour** and there is to be no double parking at all. Please only park in the designated parking spots and do not park on the **artificial turf or in pedestrian walk ways**. Thank you for taking the safety of our children seriously.



- From time to time our children forget to bring their lunch to school or a lunch order is ordered for the wrong day and we ask parents to bring in the missing lunch. In order to continue with our healthy eating expectations we ask that parents **do not bring in take away food** such as McDonalds, KFC etc. If you do need to purchase lunch for your child we ask that you purchase things such as sushi, sandwiches or wraps.
- The School opens at 8.30am and children can enter the classroom at 8.50am. **Please do not drop children off prior to 8.30am.** If you need to bring your child to school before 8.30am please book them into the before school hours program.
- St Mary MacKillop is a 'Smoke Free Zone' and smoking on the school grounds is not permitted. According to the law, 'The Tobacco Act 1987 bans smoking or vaping on school premises or within 4 metres of any pedestrian access point to school premises.'
Please do not smoke or vape on the school grounds.

- If your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school it must be handed into the teacher in the morning where it will be stored in a secured location and returned to them in the afternoon. Please refer to the Mobile phone policy on the school website.
- As there is no supervision on the playground area and the oval are in the morning, these areas are out of bounds and children are not to play on the playground or the oval before school.
- The front drive through area between the Church and the School operates as a drive through zone only before school.
- Due to a few near misses, those who wish to park and bring their child into class must **use the back car park area.** There is now no parental parking in bays outside the front of the Church.



News

Hope does not disappoint: Archdiocese of Melbourne announces local pilgrim places for Jubilee 2025

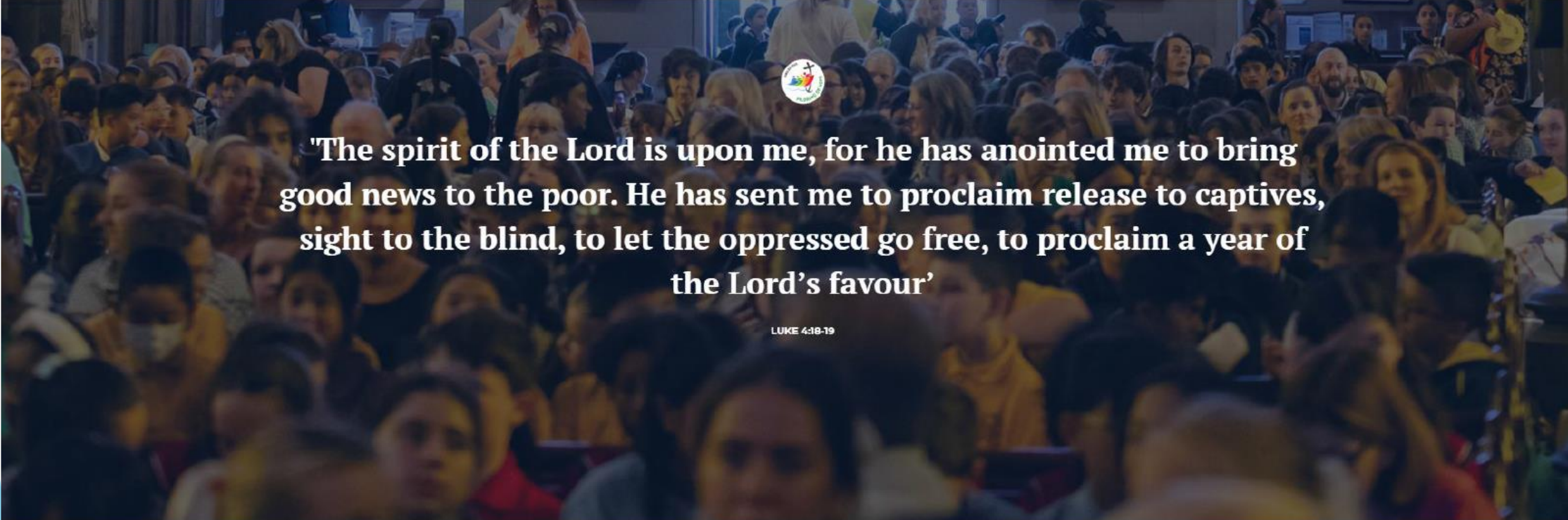
Hope does not disappoint: Archdiocese of Melbourne announces local pilgrim places for Jubilee 2025

For locals wanting to participate in next year's Jubilee and unable to travel to Rome, we have good news. In anticipation of the official opening of Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope, the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne has revealed the 13 churches and shrines within the Archdiocese that will be designated Pilgrim Places for the purposes of the 2025 Jubilee, with the majestic St Patrick's Cathedral serving as the principal Pilgrim Place.

<https://jubileeyear.macs.vic.edu.au/2025/01/13/hope-does-not-disappoint-archdiocese-of-melbourne-announces-local-pilgrim-places-for-jubilee-2025/>

Understanding Jubilee 2025

Jubilee years are a time of newness. They have been celebrated throughout the history of the Church, but their roots go back to the Old Testament, when the Israelites were commanded to celebrate a jubilee every 50 years.



'The spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to captives, sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim a year of the Lord's favour'

LUKE 4:18-19

While there won't be Holy Doors through which to walk—those are reserved for specific places in Rome and the Vatican—pilgrims will be eligible to receive Jubilee indulgences by visiting a designated Pilgrim Place within the Archdiocese.

This will be the primary way in which the 2025 Jubilee will be observed locally across the Archdiocese of Melbourne, and Catholics across the Archdiocese, as well as further afield, are encouraged to visit and pray at one or more of the local Pilgrim Places during the Jubilee year.

The Holy Father has called the universal Church to this special time of grace, a time to focus on reconciliation and forgiveness, prayer and reflection, sojourn and pilgrimage. A time to focus on hope.

Being the biggest diocese in the Oceania region, the Archdiocese of Melbourne has multiple Pilgrim Places across each of the regions—North, South East and West—making it as easy as possible for all in the Archdiocese to participate in next year's Jubilee. Rural and regional areas and migrant communities are not forgotten, with Pilgrim Places in Mansfield and Trentham, as well as the Mornington Peninsula, and a number of migrant shrines among the Pilgrim Places.

Announcing the Pilgrim Places, Archbishop of Melbourne Peter A Comensoli noted that 'The Holy Father has called the universal Church to this special time of grace, a time to focus on reconciliation and forgiveness, prayer and reflection, sojourn and pilgrimage. A time to focus on hope. I invite all in the Archdiocese to participate to the fullest in this special time and am delighted to be able to offer ways to do that locally within the Archdiocese of Melbourne.'

What is a Jubilee?

Jubilees are relatively rare occurrences, so for those of us who might not be familiar with what they are, a jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years or during other years as called for by the Pope. The most recent (ordinary) jubilee was the Great Jubilee of 2000. Key elements of a jubilee include walking through Holy Doors while on a pilgrimage and the granting of plenary indulgences.



Indulgences are a wonderful support on the great pilgrimage towards heaven. They orient hearts towards God and are characterised by a mysterious interior renewal.

Plenary indulgences

Indulgences are a way to reduce the time a person spends suffering for sins, even after they have been forgiven. A faithful Christian can earn an indulgence for themselves or for someone who has passed away, as long as they meet certain conditions.

Indulgences are a wonderful support on the great pilgrimage towards heaven. While indulgences do not absolve people of sin—that is for the sacrament of Reconciliation—they orient hearts towards God and are characterised by a mysterious interior renewal.

To receive a Jubilee plenary indulgence within the Archdiocese of Melbourne, individually or in a group, people can visit any Pilgrim Place, remain there for a suitable period of time, engage in Eucharistic adoration and meditation, then conclude their time of prayer with the Our Father, the Profession of Faith and the Hail Mary (or any other invocation to Mary the Mother of God).

By fulfilling these conditions while they are at a Pilgrim Place, the grace of the Jubilee Indulgence is granted.

Normally only one plenary indulgence can be received per day, but for the duration of the 2025 Jubilee Year, pilgrims will be able to 'pay it forward' and obtain a second, on condition that they have carried out an act of charity offered for the souls in purgatory and received Holy Communion a second time that day.

Visit local Pilgrim Places

Pilgrim Places across the Archdiocese of Melbourne will offer extended hours, additional Masses, Reconciliation, and Adoration. Pilgrims will receive a commemorative postcard, monthly reflections, and a Pilgrim Passport (available for a small donation) to be stamped at each location. Local Pilgrim Places will welcome visitors from February 2025 to 6 January 2026.

St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne

St Patrick's Cathedral is the mother church of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. It is the tallest and largest church edifice in Australia, and serves more than 1 million Catholics in the largest diocese in Oceania. Construction of the magnificent Cathedral, built in the Gothic Revival style, begun in 1850. It was consecrated in 1897 and officially completed in 1939. Many cathedrals in the past were funded by the imposition of taxes, but St Patrick's was a labour of love, the result of ordinary people's generous self-giving. In this way, it truly belongs to the people.

Overlooking the city from Eastern Hill, its spires reaching to heaven, St Patrick's holds a special place in the heart of Melburnians. The warm, golden light of its interior embraces all who enter this sacred space of beauty and inspiration.



St Mary MacKillop, Keilor Downs

St Mary MacKillop Church in Keilor Downs is a vibrant and welcoming parish community offering a unique spiritual experience for all who visit. At its heart lies a relic of St Mary MacKillop, Australia's first saint, enshrined beneath her statue, which serves as a powerful reminder of her enduring legacy of faith, compassion and service. The church also houses relics of other revered saints, including St Anthony of Padua, St John Paul II and St Therese of Lisieux.

Blending traditional Catholic symbolism with modern architectural elements to create a space that is both timeless and uplifting, St Mary MacKillop Church stands as a beacon of faith and inspiration for all who walk through its doors.



Find the complete list of local Pilgrim Places at <https://melbournecatholic.org/connect/jubilee/pilgrim-places>

**Stage
School
Australia**

"One of the **BEST THINGS**
we have done for our child"

Stage School Parent

Join us in the spotlight in 2025!

Performing arts classes for young people aged 4 - 18

25+ locations across Melbourne

FREE TRIAL CLASSES OPEN

Hurry - Limited Time!



Sing, Dance & Act

Ages 4 - 7



Musical Theatre
Classes

Ages 8 - 18



Drama & Acting
Classes

Ages 8-18



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for Boys

Ages 6-18



Screen Acting Training
and Representation

Ages 4+



(03) 8199 8345
admin@stageschool.com.au
stageschool.com.au



YEAR 7 2027
Information Evening
Thursday 20 March at 7pm

Discover
*What Our School
Has to Offer!*

We invite families to join us for an information session with our College Principal Mr Tullio Zavattiero and members of our College Leadership Team to learn about:

- Our Vision and Mission
- Curriculum Offerings
- Wellbeing
- Enrichment & Immersion Opportunities
- Sports Academy
- The Year 7 2027 Enrolment Process & Timeline



At CRCNK we are committed to creating a welcoming, respectful and safe school environment. Everyone is known, loved, challenged to grow and contribute to our learning community.

Come along and discover the North Keilor difference!

**Register
Now**

Register online via the enrolments page on our College website
crcnk.com.au/enrolment/year-7-2027



1C Santa Monica Drive
NORTH KEILOR VIC 3038
9361 5900

www.crcnk.com.au

2025 Year of Respect

"We must build bridges, not walls, to respect the dignity of every human being."
Pope Francis



Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund APPLICATION Form

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname _____

First name _____

Address _____

Town/suburb _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Contact number _____

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

- - - **OR**

Foster parent* **OR** Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)**

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH).

**Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card.

Student details

Child's surname	Child's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

I authorise the Victorian Department of Education (DE) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry about my Centrelink customer details and concession card status to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of any enquiry to DE regarding temporary care orders.

I understand that:

- DFFH or Centrelink will use information I have provided to DE to confirm my eligibility for the CSEF and will disclose to DE personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- This consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to my child's school so that my eligibility for the CSEF can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the CSEF.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the CSEF may be disclosed to DFFH and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You can request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____ Date ____/____/____

Camps, Sports and Excursions fund eligibility

Below are the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the CSEF.

Criteria 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a mature minor of sixteen years of age or over, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- on the first day of Term one; or
 - on the first day of Term two.
- Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder; or
 - Be a temporary foster parent; and
 - Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Eligibility | education.vic.gov.au](#)

Mature minors or parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and seventeen years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and eighteen years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students' attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooling, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders, CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink (see [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Policy | education.vic.gov.au](#)).

Payment amounts

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

The CSEF is paid directly the school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child. Please refer to the policy for the current rates.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Payment amounts | education.vic.gov.au](#)

Foundation and Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents, so please register your interest at the school.

How to complete the application form

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

- Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section. Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school. If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.
- Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
- Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.

Upcoming Events 2025

Term 1: 31 January-04 April

Tuesday 04 March

9.30am Prep 2026 Information Session and Tour

Thursday 06 March

9.30am Prep 2026 Information Session and Tour

Wednesday 12 March to Monday 24 March

Year 3 and 5 Naplan

Tuesday 01 April and Wednesday 02 April

School Photos

Thursday 03 April

Year 3 Reconciliation-more details to come

Friday 04 April

Last day of Term 1-All Students finish @ 1pm