



St Leo's CATHOLIC COLLEGE
CO-EDUCATION IN THE HEART OF WAHROONGA



PROSPECTUS

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INTEGRITY : RESPECT : JUSTICE : HOPE : DIGNITY

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St Leo's Catholic College

Welcome to St Leo's Catholic College Wahroonga.
St Leo's enjoys the unique position of being the only
Catholic co-education high school on Sydney's North Shore.



Learning at St Leo's is engaging, challenging and enjoyable, and is aimed at your child's individual level. The staff strive to understand the nature of every student so that they are able to assist them to succeed in all aspects of their education. The College has established itself as a highly successful school which provides education across multiple pathways and across a wide range of curriculum, sporting, social justice and cultural areas.



*“Effective learning is
about exploring ideas,
and learning from
mistakes”*

St Leo's strives to assist each student to achieve their own personal best; a holistic approach to your child's education is paramount so they can develop spiritually, academically, physically, socially and emotionally. St Leo's has developed a culture where diversity, equality and inclusion are encouraged; the students and staff work collaboratively to maintain this philosophy.

The curriculum is broad and responsive to the needs of the students in a range of academic, cultural and vocational fields, equipping them with the essential life skills required for our contemporary society.

As a non-selective high school, the College delivers strong academic results across the curriculum, catering for the most gifted of students whilst skilfully supporting all students across the spectrum of learning needs.

Catholic values are at the very heart of St Leo's philosophy, providing a strong academic and cultural framework which promotes the College's core values of Integrity, Respect, Justice, Hope and Dignity in every aspect of life in the classroom and beyond.

Your child's education is a journey that benefits from a strong and healthy partnership between dedicated teachers, families and the individual student. St Leo's students are happy, confident and valued individuals who show mutual respect for each other. When students graduate, they do so equipped with social confidence, compassion and a balanced view of life, eager to make a positive difference to the world.

Co-education is inspiring, supportive, exciting, fun and, above all, natural.

As a co-educational Catholic college, St Leo's provides an invaluable opportunity for students to appreciate the different perspectives boys and girls bring to the community and to successfully experience the sheer complexity of gender.

In academic terms, boys and girls attain similar merits in HSC results, indicating that each gender is enhanced by the presence of the other. The students are comfortable with who they are and have a healthy, positive and respectful attitude towards each other.

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



"Because St Leo's is co-ed, it is easier to find a group of friends to fit in with – I am confident and very happy at St Leo's"

Rebecca, Year 8



St Leo's Catholic College is committed to the development of confident, competent Catholic young men and women of conscience. Our aim is to help students discover and develop their talents so they can shape and perhaps change the world into a better place.

In order to achieve this goal, the College aims to provide broad learning experiences in a natural co-educational environment that promotes Integrity, Respect, Justice, Hope and Dignity. Students will leave St Leo's College respecting the quality of their education.

Catholic Life and Mission

St Leo's is first and foremost a Catholic school, with the religious dimension of the College being a shared partnership between families, parish communities and the school. Family and friends are encouraged to join in the many events that occur during the year when the College gathers together to celebrate sacramentally in Masses, Liturgies, religious festivals and end-of-year graduations.



Religion is an essential and comprehensive area of study through to Year 12, providing students with the knowledge, skills and experiences necessary to develop a mature and informed commitment to the Catholic tradition.

A real sense of community exists at the College, and prayer is seen as an important part of daily life. The Chapel, a sacred place of prayer and worship, is the spiritual heart of the College and provides opportunities for both personal and communal prayer.

Christian leadership is fostered through the College's comprehensive Youth Ministry Program, which offers a variety of activities in the areas of advocacy, catechesis, community life, evangelisation, justice and service, leadership development, as well as prayer and worship.

A child's education is a journey – a journey that benefits from a strong, healthy partnership between peers, dedicated teachers, families and the parish community.

"St Leo's is committed to educating students in mind, body and spirit"



Teaching & Learning

St Leo's is a **comprehensive** co-educational Catholic College with a string of awards including first place achievements in external Metropolitan, State and National competitions in Mathematics, English, Debating, Performing Arts, Hospitality and the sporting arena.

The school embraces a diversity of student capabilities, providing both academic challenge and learning support so that all students across all grades and all abilities have an equal opportunity to achieve their personal best.

In Years 8–10 there is a Targeted Class designed specifically to extend and enrich the most capable students and also exposing them to inter-school and external competitions such as the da Vinci Decathlon and Shakespeare Interactive. For students who need additional support and direction there is an Enhanced Learning Program with smaller class sizes and specialised teachers.

St Leo's delivers strong academic results across the curriculum in a broad range of subjects and its HSC student names regularly appear in the Premier's All-round Achievers List. Additionally, more than 70 percent of students are offered a place at university each year (State average 30 percent).



Throughout a student's journey at St Leo's they will have the opportunity to participate in a range of cultural experiences at home and abroad through history excursions, social justice immersions, religious pilgrimages or the traditional study of languages.

St Leo's offers French, German and Japanese to students in Years 7-12. Studying a language widens students' perspectives and increases their respect for and appreciation of cultures different from their own.

In recent years, Language students at St Leo's have participated in cultural tours and exchanges playing host to numerous students from Germany and Japan.



“St Leo's delivers strong academic results across the curriculum”

The College iPad and integrated technology systems create a learning environment conducive to effective innovation and pedagogy. Each student has an iPad; they also have access to the campus Wi-Fi, Mac laptops and Apple TVs. The College designs authentic real-world programs and learning activities that enable students to thrive in an information-rich world and promote global connectedness. The love of reading is fostered within the College and, despite the advances in technology, students are allocated quiet reading time in class from 'real' books.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) education is an interdisciplinary approach to learning where

rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons. Students apply Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in contexts that make connections between school, community, work and the global enterprise, enabling the development of young people who are skilled for life.

The students entering St Leo's are our future drivers of industry, our public and social service leaders, our teachers, doctors, business owners and lawyers. They will bridge the gap between the world as we know it now and the world that advancing technology is constantly reshaping.



Creative & Performing Arts

St Leo’s believes that the opportunity for students to be involved in the creative and performing arts is an essential element of a holistic education. Drama, Music and Visual Arts are an integral part of the school curriculum from Year 7 to Year 12, with electives offered in Drama, Music and Visual Arts in Years 9–12. Budding artists excel in all fields, and their work is regularly nominated and accepted for exhibition in the coveted ARTEXPRESS and Music Encore (the annual showcases of the best HSC works across NSW). Many students have continued their tertiary studies in these fields and have gone on to have successful professional careers in performance, visual arts and design.



The continuing development of the Music program is exceptional, with increasing annual first and place awards being presented to St Leo’s students at competitions such as the highly competitive Sydney Eisteddfod.

Numerous opportunities are available for students to pursue their musical passions through concert, performance band and choir programs. There are also ample opportunities for students to display their talents at festivals and the quarterly College Twilight Concerts, which allow friends and family to enjoy all of the major ensembles.

Drama Club and biannual musicals allow students to extend and enrich their education either as a co-curricular activity or an extension of their academic Drama or Music course.



“The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today”

H Jackson Brown, Jr



Students explore, experiment and master skills in a range of creative forms such as textiles, drawing, painting, ceramics, printmaking, sculpture, photo and digital media and documentation.



Hospitality

Hospitality plays a strong part in the teaching and community life of the College. Every student has the opportunity to participate in and enjoy the rewards from this program, with regular hospitality provided by the students at College events.

Inter-school competitions within the Broken Bay Diocese have also seen St Leo’s students’ culinary skills rewarded with first place in the Broken Bay Diocese ‘Battle of the Chefs’.



Pastoral Care

Recognising the pressures placed on members of the school community in today's society, the College provides wide-ranging systems and structures, through its well-developed Pastoral Care and Peer Support System, to assist in building resilient, confident, competent and caring Catholic young men and women.

The Pastoral Care Program is integrated with one of the College's greatest strengths – the Tutor Group, Year Group and House System – designed to enhance each student's learning experience at the College and create a safe, positive and supportive school environment.



St Leo's senior students enthusiastically supporting R U OK? Day, a national day when students ask their mates, colleagues and family 'Are you OK?'. Regular face-to-face conversations can help us build and maintain strong relationships with friends and family.

An integral part of the Pastoral Care Program is the College's Outdoor Education Program, whereby all students are involved in a series of year group camps, retreats and reflection days. Additional co-curricular pastoral activities available to every student include The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Chess Club and lunchtime games and competitions, after-school Boxercise classes, Student Representative Council and Social Justice activities.



Elizabeth and Luke making friends with a local Kiribati boy. In the background are the abandoned landing craft from the 1943 Battle of Tarawa.

Social Justice

There is a significant focus at the College on living out the joy of the Gospel by putting our faith into action. The College has a Youth Ministry Coordinator, and through its renowned Social Justice Program, St Leo's offers many opportunities for students to learn about social justice and structural inequalities that create barriers in our society. Students are able to put their faith into action by personally reaching out to help those in need or by participating in a variety of appeals such as the monthly St Vincent de Paul Sydney Night Patrol, Caritas' Project Compassion, Vinnies Winter Appeal, nursing home visits, the Year 10 Street Retreat, and the parent initiative 'The Dish' where we feed our local homeless community.

The College also offers unique life-changing experiences which broaden students' education and strengthen their faith. For example, students experience first-hand the life and culture of others through the annual immersions run by the College in remote indigenous communities in Australia and on the Pacific Island of Kiribati.



Once a month St Leo's senior students participate in St Vincent de Paul Night Patrol in the city; a program supporting the disadvantaged in our community.

"Education is an act of hope"
Pope Francis



Facilities & Resources

ICT-enabled teaching and learning is an integral part of daily learning at St Leo's, which has an established integrated technology system. Every student has an iPad and access to the campus Wi-Fi, Mac laptops and Apple TVs. Each student, from their iPad, is able to connect to the Diocese of Broken Bay mobile network. Students are trained in the safe, effective and ethical use of the iPad at the beginning of Term 1, with further skills being developed throughout the year. Students make use of the free 5GB iCloud account and free Google for Education email account. These technologies ensure the student is at the centre of learning.



The College 'Library space' is a 21st century learning space. It reflects the image of life-long learning. It is a local 'hub' for information, learning and reading for pleasure.

This flexible facility has spaces for a wide range of activities, collaborative learning – an important skill for active participation in today's society; social interaction for the purpose of sharing, communicating and creating information, and research.

There are also spaces that allow for some noise yet provide quiet space for those who need to read or engage in quiet study.

Supporting the holistic approach to St Leo's students' education, the curriculum includes subjects such as Science, Creative Arts, Textiles, Hospitality and Technology & Applied Studies, which are taught to the boys and girls in dedicated and well-equipped resource rooms.

The College is working through an extensive and strategically planned building and renovation program for the benefit of both staff and students. The program involves upgraded Science and general classroom blocks; a renovated library with separate lecture and e-learning rooms; renovated staff administration and student services facilities; a new seniors' outdoor recreational area; a new staffroom and additional car parking.

Further enhancement of the amenities throughout the College are on-going, and will include a new Hospitality hub and refurbished Technology and Applied Studies areas. These facilities enhance teaching and learning at the College.

In 2012, the newly constructed Light of Christ Centre on the lower oval was opened. This Centre plays host to College assemblies, musical and drama productions, and indoor sporting events such as Basketball, Netball and Indoor Soccer. Within the College grounds there is a full-sized football/cricket field (with one fully maintained turf wicket); three outdoor basketball/tennis courts; two indoor basketball courts; handball courts; and a preservation area dedicated to the Sydney Blue Gum forest.



Beyond the classroom

Activities beyond the classroom are an essential part of the holistic educational journey for students at St Leo's College. These activities are designed to introduce students to a variety of challenges and experiences, allowing them to extend themselves in areas of interest or passion.

Through the College's co-curricular program, the dedicated staff are committed to offering each student an opportunity to move outside their comfort zone, setting themselves personal goals and creating balance in their education. Involvement in co-curricular activities helps students to recognise the value of these programs to their mental, spiritual and physical development, to be open to new experiences – and above all to have fun.



A number of events and courses off the school premises are offered, including the surfing program at Manly Surf School, Fitness and Conditioning at the local gym and Laser Tag, as well as numerous activities at PCYC. Students can also attend coaching clinics run by various sporting organisations throughout the year.

Within the co-curricular program, students have opportunities to join in activities such as The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Debating, Public Speaking, Chess, Surf Life Saving, English, Mathematics, Science competitions and an innovative slam poetry program.

Sport program

The tiered sporting program, devised and run by specifically trained and dedicated teachers, has enabled the further development of a high-quality sporting program within the College, which includes sports for both girls and boys in areas such as Touch Football, Netball, Rugby (Union and League), Basketball, Aerobics, Swimming, Cricket, Soccer, AFL, Water Polo, Tennis, Volleyball and Athletics.

*“Believe you can and
you’re halfway there”*

Theodore Roosevelt



All students in Years 7–10 participate in the weekly Sport for Life program throughout the year, designed to allow everyone to gain an appreciation for physical activity regardless of their fitness or skill level. The ASP (Accelerated Sport Program), which forms part of Sport for Life, is a developmental program designed specifically to take talented sports students through to progressively higher levels, including representation.

State Aerobics Champions and National Representatives



St Leo’s has a strong sporting culture and enjoys huge successes in representative sports. As St Leo’s is a member of the Broken Bay Secondary Schools Sports Association (BBSSA), students participate in organised sporting events throughout the school year against other Catholic schools within the Diocese, resulting in less time on buses and more time playing sport. For the highly competitive student, the tiered sporting program provides a pathway to representation at Regional, State and National levels in the Combined Catholic Colleges, NSW All Schools and School Sport Australia competitions.



The College enters Soccer, Rugby League, Rugby Union and Netball teams in The Peninsula Cup, a competition based on the Northern Beaches and conducted predominantly after school in Terms 1, 2 and 3.

Students have the opportunity to be involved in the High Performance Sports Program which includes Local, National and International tours.

The College endeavours to make sport and physical activity a fun part of everyone’s daily routine and lifestyle.



Parents in Partnership

Parents are the first and most important educators of their children. The College strives to work in partnership with parents and is proud of the positive relationships that exist among the staff, students, Catholic feeder schools, local parishes and the wider community.

Importance and value is placed upon three-way communication between the College, parents and students, encouraging a sense of belonging to the St Leo's community.

The College's Parent Network is unique. The Network is established on the principles of parent participation, openness and transparency, flexibility and stability. The Network recognises and values the role that parents and carers play in the education of their children and aims to strengthen the partnership between family, school and parish.

The College Board assists the Principal and College Leadership Team in supporting the mission and vision of the College.

In addition to staff and local clergy, the Board includes parents who are actively involved in activities and programs that build the St Leo's community, strengthen partnerships between families and the College, and reach out to those in need.



"St Leo's provides a safe, well-balanced learning environment. We are privileged to be able to give this to both our son and daughter"

Mr and Mrs Taylor, Turramurra



Enrolment

St Leo's Catholic College is a Year 7–12 comprehensive co-educational high school. Enrolment enquiries and applications are welcome at any time when students are in their middle primary years for entry into Year 7.

It is recommended that applications be lodged at least two school years prior to the date of commencement into Year 7. However, from time to time vacancies may exist in other years and the College welcomes your enquiry.

All applications for entry into Year 7 remain on a waiting list until the offer process has commenced. Applications for St Leo's College are considered on merit and in accordance with the Catholic Diocese Enrolment Policy, which can be found by visiting: www.csodbb.catholic.edu.au

Year 7 enrolment applications must be returned to the College Office no later than 1st May for consideration by the Enrolment Committee for the next two-year enrolment cycle.

If you have any queries regarding enrolments or wish to obtain an enrolment application form, please contact the Registrar.

Telephone: 02 9487 3555

email: registrar.sslcw@dbb.catholic.edu.au



Location

St Leo's Catholic College is located in Wahroonga on Sydney's Upper North Shore.

Bus transport directly to school is available or students can travel by train to Waitara Station, then take a short walk down Yardley Avenue.

Free travel is available to students who live more than 2.6km in a direct line from school, or 2.9km walking distance. The College has a map showing the 2.6km boundary. Application forms for the new student Opal Cards can be sourced from:

www.transportnsw.info/school-students



The Light of Christ Centre

Contact

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