

COLLEGE PROSPECTUS 2020-2021



To find out more about St Leo's, visit our website, join us for our annual Open Day in March, or contact us to arrange a tour at a time convenient to you throughout the year.

16 Woolcott Avenue, Wahroonga, NSW 2076

T: 9487 3555

E: stleos@dbb.catholic.edu.au

www.stleos.nsw.edu.au

 St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga



St Leo's CATHOLIC
COLLEGE



“
A strong emphasis
on knowing each
student and
growing their
unique potential.
”

Welcome to St Leo's

St Leo's is a comprehensive co-educational Catholic college and an exceptional place to learn.

St Leo's is a comprehensive co-educational Catholic college and an exceptional place to learn. We truly are a caring, inclusive community, committed to knowing each student and growing their unique potential.

Along with our consistently strong academic results and a wide range of co-curricular offerings, we offer a holistic view of education and wellbeing with a focus on skills for lifelong learning.

We aim to help students find their passion and develop their talents so that they can shape and change the world for the better. Our wonderful community and range of opportunities form well-rounded students for whom anything is possible.



Why choose St Leo's?

St Leo's Catholic College is located on six hectares in the leafy suburb of Wahroonga and is the only co-educational Catholic secondary school on Sydney's Upper North Shore.

- As a caring, inclusive community renowned for our pastoral care, we have a strong focus on knowing each student and growing their unique potential and passion.
- Our recently completed \$25M campus upgrade provides state-of-the-art facilities, including a \$14M Creative and Performing Arts, Design, Technology and Hospitality centre, a Resource Centre, and numerous purposeful, flexible learning and recreation spaces.
- We pride ourselves on achieving consistently strong academic results, with students regularly appearing in the HSC High Achiever and All-rounder lists. Over 70 percent of students are offered a university place each year.
- We are consistently above the average student growth in NAPLAN - across both State and SSSG schools (Statistically Similar School Group).
- We focus on developing the whole person across our range of Growth Domains, including spiritual, academic, cultural, social, emotional, environmental, and physical dimensions, ensuring a diverse and purposeful experience, and the balanced development of our students.
- A future-directed view of education focusing on deep learning skills and offering one-on-one student mentoring and coaching, helps our students become lifelong learners.
- Our unique online learning platform features portable digital portfolios our students can show future employers, and enables them to articulate, track and own their learning.
- Our Pathways Program works with students and families to navigate the many options beyond school, developing industry and higher education partnerships and shaping new offerings at St Leo's.
- We offer a strong sporting culture together with an extensive range of co-curricular offerings, including overseas tours and with an emphasis on social justice opportunities.



“
Co-education
is inspiring,
supportive, exciting,
fun, realistic and,
above all, natural.
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A Message from the Principal

I am proud to warmly welcome you to St Leo's Catholic College, Wahroonga.

At St Leo's, we are committed to forming confident, competent Catholic-valued young women and men of conscience, aiming to help students find their passion and develop their talents into greatness.

We equip our students with the skills and attitudes to be future leaders in their fields, honouring God in what they do and how they do it. To achieve this, we aim to provide broad educational experiences that promote the spiritual, academic, social, cultural, physical and environmental growth of our students – what we call

our Growth Domain areas. By developing real-world, transferrable skills, our students graduate as well-rounded individuals ready to successfully negotiate the challenges of the future.

I invite you to come and see the wealth of opportunities available at St Leo's and experience the warmth and caring of our community for yourself.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Anthony Gleeson

Why Co-ed?

We strongly believe that co-education allows students to appreciate the different perspectives boys and girls bring to the community and successfully experience the sheer complexity of gender, particularly during the formative adolescent years.

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

Not only do girls and boys learn differently, but so does every student, regardless of their gender. Knowing each student as a learner is one of the foundations here at St Leo's.

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

Our world is a 'co-ed' type of world - what better place to continue this education and develop these relationships, particularly during their formative years of adolescence?





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We recognise each student and encourage
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Teaching and Learning

St Leo's is an award-winning school acknowledged for teaching excellence. We provide an engaging and challenging learning environment focused on promoting student growth.

While our academic results are consistently strong, our broad curriculum provides balance and diversity across a range of academic, cultural, physical and vocational fields.

We take a future view of education at St Leo's, focusing on transferrable deep learning skills that will equip our students for the future, creating lifelong learners able to adapt in our ever-changing world and challenge the traditional status quo.



We embrace and support diverse student capabilities and provide academic challenges and support for different learning styles, rates and abilities. We ensure all students have the opportunity to achieve their best. Along with Vocational Education and Training (VET) subjects, we offer Gifted and Talented Programs, Learning Support and a unique Community Tutoring Program.

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

We are proud of our strong reputation for the highest quality pastoral care. We recognise each student and encourage them to find their personal greatness. Our comprehensive Pastoral Care Program focuses on promoting wellbeing, connectedness, resilience and positive relationships and contributes to our ongoing reputation as a caring, inclusive community.

We ensure balanced and diverse growth through a College-wide focus on what we call our 'St Leo's Growth Domains' - the spiritual, academic, cultural, social emotional, environmental and physical development areas of all our students.

Mentor teachers work with each student to develop a Personalised Learning Plan and digital portfolio using our custom online Learning Den, setting goals and reflecting on their growth. Our pastoral programs include retreats, outdoor programs and peer support, as well as a comprehensive mentoring program. Our



Pathways Program assists students and their families transition beyond school to the 21st century workforce through partnerships with industry and higher education, while informing new educational offerings and approaches at St Leo's.

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 College.

Religion is an essential and comprehensive area of study for all students, prayer an important part of daily life, regular religious gatherings and celebrations enthusiastically not only embraced, but led by students, and Christian leadership fostered through our Youth Ministry Program.

Students in Years 7-10 attend a Spirituality Day each year to help them develop their spiritual lives amidst their busy academic schedules, while the College provides a three-day retreat for both Year 11 and Year 12. A real sense of community exists at St Leo's and our newly refurbished Chapel is the spiritual heart, where a weekly Mass is also held which students have the option to attend.



Our Faith in Action – Social Justice

There is a significant focus at St Leo's on putting our faith into action and giving students agency and confidence to build a world that is positive, just and inclusive.

Our Youth Ministry staff oversee our renowned Social Justice Program, where we offer many opportunities for students to learn about social justice and structural inequalities that create barriers in our society through range of activities.

The College also offers regular local initiatives through to unique, life-changing immersion experiences that broaden students' education and strengthen their faith, including our ongoing annual Pacific Partnership Program with the islands of Kiribati.



Our College Facilities – Prepared for the Future

St Leo's is located on six hectares in the leafy Upper North Shore suburb of Wahroonga and has just completed an extensive \$25M campus and technology upgrade.

Our facilities include:

- the new state-of-the-art Mary MacKillop Centre for Creative and Performing Arts, Design, Technology and Hospitality, which includes:
 - drama and dance theatre with retractable seating
 - art gallery and visual art studios
 - specialty music, rehearsal rooms and individual instrumental tuition rooms
 - two commercial-grade kitchens
 - two TAS workshops for woodwork
 - several large meeting and gallery spaces
 - numerous purposeful and flexible learning spaces
- the Light of Christ Centre - a multipurpose complex for over 1500 people used for indoor sports, assemblies, and a range of College functions and events
- a newly refurbished Chapel
- two full-sized sports ovals
- two large, shaded outdoor recreational areas
- a well-equipped Aquinas Resource Centre including library and cafe
- canteen.







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Beyond the Classroom – Sport for Life



St Leo's has a strong sporting culture and enjoys huge success in various representative sports.

Students participate in a range of organised sporting events throughout the year including our regular Sport for Life program, offering a high-quality tiered sporting program covering a wide selection of team and individual sports.

Our Accelerated and High-Performance Sports Programs allow talented sports students to progress to higher levels including regional, state and national representation and international tours.



Beyond the Classroom – Creative and Performing Arts

Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) are an integral part of the curriculum at St Leo's.

Music, drama and visual arts have long been a focus, while Dance and Entertainment (VET) have recently been added to our range of CAPA subjects. Our \$14M state-of-the-art Mary MacKillop Centre highlights our commitment to the arts and includes a drama and dance theatre with fully retractable seating, art gallery and studios, along with dedicated orchestra, band and music rooms.

Our exceptional music program includes various band, ensemble and choir programs, and an annual musical

or drama production, in addition to an impressive 14 co-curricular CAPA ensembles and individual music tuition.

Our annual Showcase is an impressive community event featuring outstanding student works across the spectrum of creative and performing arts. St Leo's students regularly win awards and Eisteddfods, and have been invited to exhibit at ARTEXPRESS and ENCORE. We are very proud to have had three students offered places at NIDA for 2019.



“Our new \$14m Mary MacKillop Centre highlights our commitment to the arts.”





Preparing Students for the Future – Technology and much more

We equip our students with the skills and attitudes to be future leaders in their fields.

Technology is an integral part of daily learning, with individual student iPads or MacBooks and other learning technologies serving as important tools in developing critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication skills. Our experience has found that technology-enabled teaching and learning allows for more active engagement, it allows teaching to meet the student at their particular point of learning, and students are encouraged to advance their skills in a safe environment.

Our Learning Den is a custom-built online learning platform on which students can record and track their progress in a range of areas, giving them learning ownership and a digital portfolio to take with them when they leave. We have an interdisciplinary approach to Science, Technology, Engineering and

Mathematics (STEM), which students apply to make connections between school, community, work and the global enterprise. Students also have the opportunity to participate in competitive programs such as VEX Robotics.

Our innovative Pathways Program works with students and their families to navigate life beyond school, developing industry and higher education partnerships, and shaping new offerings and approaches to learning at St Leo's.

Overall, St Leo's is focused on developing transferrable deep learning skills that will equip all our students for the future by creating lifelong learners able to adapt to and challenge a world being constantly reshaped through advancing technology.

