



St Joseph's Catholic College
College Prospectus



Welcome to St Joseph's Catholic College

St Joseph's Catholic College is located in East Gosford on the NSW Central Coast, within the Diocese of Broken Bay and offers a holistic secondary education for girls from Years 7 to 12.

An education at St Joseph's empowers young women who are shaped by their relationship with Jesus Christ within the Catholic tradition and inspired by St Mary of the Cross Mackillop and our patron, St Joseph, to make a difference in the world.

The supportive, inclusive, and nurturing community at St Joseph's encourages the development of confident, resilient, and independent young women who act with courage, strength and gentleness in the service of others and in the stewardship of our earth.

With a comprehensive curriculum, dedicated teaching staff and a diverse co-curricular program, we provide challenging learning experiences inside and outside the classroom to encourage our students to develop their unique gifts and talents, strive for personal and academic excellence and purpose, and recognise that learning is for life.

We invite you to tour our college and discover all that an education at St Joseph's has to offer.



Vision and Mission

Vision

To educate young women in the Josephite tradition that empowers them to act justly and to lead lives as disciples of Jesus.

Mission

The St Joseph's Catholic College community empowers young women who are shaped by their relationship with Jesus Christ within the Catholic tradition and inspired by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop to make a difference in the world.

Our young women:

- Develop relationships founded on discipleship and the Gospel
- Strive for personal excellence and purpose
- Develop their unique gifts and talents
- Value learning and reflection that provide a foundation for individual growth and wellbeing
- Act with courage, strength and gentleness in the service of others and in the stewardship of our earth
- Value education as the foundation for achieving change in the world
- Lead with compassion, serve with respect, pray with hope and act justly



Our heritage – who we are

The Sisters of St Joseph established their first school known as Our Lady of the Rosary School in Gosford in 1910. By 1930 the Sisters changed its name to St Joseph's Convent School. An education based on Gospel values of compassion, hope, justice and respect and a curriculum relevant to young women continued to be provided by the Sisters as the school expanded and moved to East Gosford. The school opened on its current site

in Russell Drysdale Street in 1975 and became known as St Joseph's Catholic College in 1999. Our six houses are named after the Josephite Sisters who made a significant contribution to the character of our school. The life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop inspires us every day to 'never see a need without doing something about it' and our patron, St Joseph reminds us to Act Justly in the service of others.



Catholic life and mission

St Joseph's Catholic College is a Catholic community invigorated by the Josephite charism and the life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. The college motto Act Justly summarises our call to boldly express faith and to respond compassionately to the needs of others.

A formal program in religious education is central to the curriculum of the college and underpins all aspects of learning and teaching. Students engage in the Catholic life of the community through participation in retreats and reflection days. Their journey in faith is developed through the essential components of liturgy and prayer.

The college is challenged by Pope Francis to seek out opportunities for peace and justice in daily life and in our relationship with the global community. Social justice lies at the heart of our college mission. Students are equipped and empowered to care for the poor, the weak and the oppressed through community outreach initiatives and immersion experiences. These opportunities allow them to emulate the life and example of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop.



A uniquely Joey's education for girls...

Our teachers understand what inspires and challenges girls, how they learn, their ambitions and conflicts. In this all-girls environment, girls are the leaders, academic achievers and sporting superstars. Girls are consistently celebrated in all the success stories. Successful female role models and the powerful effect of girls performing and achieving are lifelong influences on every young woman who attends our college.

...where students are successful

Our students consistently achieve strong HSC results and achievements year-on-year, with most graduating students pursuing higher education. They are represented on the merit lists for national Mathematics and Science competitions and for international language competitions. College teams have competed in the national finals of the Future Problem-Solving competition and at a wide variety of regional and state sporting events.

...in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment that recognises and cares for each student

St Joseph's is a non-selective and inclusive college that supports the learning needs of all students. Individuals are cared for in a community defined by a house system that encourages cross-age connections and a pastoral structure that nurtures a strong sense of belonging to a year group with same age peers. A Pastoral Teacher, Year Leader and Leader of House are a constant presence in the student's life from the day she enrolls at St Joseph's until she leaves in Year 12.

...based on contemporary pedagogy

Our students are at the centre of learning and teaching. Our teachers consciously engage learners in thinking and questioning, hypothesising and experimenting, planning and reflecting, and collaborating and creating to encourage them to attain higher levels of knowledge, understanding and functioning. High expectations for achievement, contemporary technologies, differentiated strategies and evidence-based approaches to assessment inform all learning and teaching.

...that encourages young women to aspire to leadership and act justly in the service of others

Developing student leaders is a fundamental goal of St Joseph's. It is our hope that throughout their lives, these contemporary MacKillop women will, in the tradition of St Mary of the Cross, lead with compassion, serve with respect, pray with hope and act justly.

"Anything is possible if we dare to carry out our dreams with passion and with hearts desiring to love all people through the heart of Jesus."

Mary MacKillop 1891



An education in an all-girl environment with connection to neighbouring all-boys' college

An education at St Joseph's is set in a single-sex environment, which is statistically proven to maximise a student's concentration and learning ability with minimised distraction from peers. During senior years, the college offers several combined classes with neighbouring all-boys St Edward's College, to expand the subject elective choices for our students, with many often choosing to attend subjects held at the St Edward's campus and vice versa

Girls educated in a single-sex environment gain the benefit of not only an education tailored to the learning styles and needs of girls, but they are also more frequently exposed to strong female role models who exemplify what women can achieve in life beyond school.

With socialisation being a core outcome of overall schooling and integral to personal development, students at St Joseph's have the option to join St Edward's students on the oval at lunchtime to socialise with or make new friends, or to play a sport and re-energise, and then return to the classroom to focus on their studies without the distractions students would typically experience in a co-educational environment.



Learning and teaching

The importance of learning can never be underestimated. Learning is for life, and we seek to equip students to apply their knowledge and skills to new situations, to be able to think flexibly, critically and creatively and to work collaboratively as well as independently. To assist understanding and engagement in learning and to arouse curiosity and motivation in thinking, teachers and students use and apply contemporary information and communication technologies.

Our focus on nurturing individual potential helps each student to flourish. Our dedicated teaching staff strive to differentiate their teaching to accommodate the needs of every student. We aim for students to become proactive and engaged in their learning, while benefitting from the personal attention given by their committed teachers. Our HSC results are consistently strong, with many outstanding individual results each year.

Students at St Joseph's are offered a curriculum with a diverse range of subjects, academic challenges and learning opportunities. Students are encouraged to explore and engage in areas of special interest in their study of the creative and performing arts, humanities, technologies, sciences, mathematics and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) courses.

“Learning at St Joseph’s is focused on achieving personal excellence”





Outside the classroom – co-curricular program

St Joseph's has a strong sporting culture with significant success in several representative sports, with Joey's girls enjoying a diverse co-curricular program that enriches the holistic education provided to them at the college. Students are offered debating and public speaking, ministry and immersion experiences, opportunities in the creative and performing arts such as musical theatre, drama club, choir, orchestra and dance troupe, and in several team and individual sports such as basketball, netball, tennis, soccer, touch football, hockey, surfing, golf and water polo. St Joseph's Catholic College is affiliated with the Broken Bay Diocese and is a member of the Broken Bay Secondary Schools' Sports Association.



Acting justly and making a difference – student leadership

At St Joseph's Catholic College, we believe that all students have the potential to lead and contribute to the spirit of the school and the wellbeing of each other. Our Mission Statement compels us to develop the leadership potential of each student so she can flourish and make a difference in the world.

Students learn about leadership and learn how to lead from the moment they enrol in the college. Students serve as Student Representative Council reps for their pastoral class, assist in the office, library and canteen, support younger students as Peer Mentors and Peer Tutors, serve on committees and as senior students, they lead their houses and the college. These leadership experiences encourage students to think strategically, solve problems, make decisions, delegate, motivate, listen, negotiate and resolve conflict – the important 21st century skills for strong, independent and confident young women.



Pastoral care and wellbeing

Students are educated in the Josephite tradition to empower young women to act justly and to lead lives as disciples of Jesus. This informs our approach to the pastoral care and wellbeing of our students as we strive to develop contemporary MacKillop women living the college values of justice, hope, compassion, and respect and empowered to lead within the wider community.

Pastoral care and student wellbeing is managed primarily by a Year Leader who joins students in Year 7 and takes them through to Year 12. Year groups are divided into six pastoral classes with each having a pastoral teacher to manage the daily pastoral and administrative routines. Pastoral classes are based on the six college houses named after Josephite sisters who have been significant in the history of the college. The house system connects students across and within year

groups and builds community spirit as students represent their house in sporting competitions and in social justice and community activities.

A formal pastoral care and student wellbeing program is timetabled every fortnight. It supports other initiatives to create a unique school environment in which students feel valued, connected, engaged, purposeful and safe. The program is designed to develop student understanding of issues affecting their wellbeing including digital citizenship and staying safe online, peer relationships and bullying, body image and positive self-esteem, alcohol and drugs, connectedness and resilience, effective learning and studying skills, balancing time and goal setting, protective behaviours and taking care of self and others and options and opportunities after Year 12.

***“Find happiness in
making others happy.”***

Mary MacKillop 1889



Facilities

St Joseph's Catholic College offers advanced educational facilities and operates a 1:1 laptop program. The MacKillop Library provides the college community with an extensive collection of curriculum-related resources and recreational reading in addition to a comprehensive digital video library. Students have access to a wealth of learning technologies in the classroom. Our facilities, including three newly installed science labs, a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen, a fully equipped timber technology workshop and a laser-cutting machine support the successful study of Hospitality and a range of Technology and Applied Science subjects. The creative and performing arts subjects of Drama, Dance, Music, Visual Arts and Photography and Digital Media are taught in purpose-built studios, labs and performance spaces.

St Joseph's is nestled in a picturesque corner of East Gosford, overlooking Caroline Bay. The peaceful Japanese Gardens at the Gosford Regional Gallery are a short walk away and are well-utilised during field trips and celebration days. Shekinah, the college chapel is used for weekly Mass and regular gatherings. Girls enjoy lunchtimes in Carroll, Founders, Tacey and Penola Courts with the senior girls having access to a dedicated area complete with tables shaded by large umbrellas and a bird feeder to attract the native fauna. Sails and shade cloths provide protection from the weather and, with the installation of two substantial rainwater tanks, demonstrate the college's commitment to stewardship of the environment.



Partnerships with parents

Parents and staff work in close connection with one another to ensure the best possible learning gains are achieved by students. Parents are actively involved in a variety of activities including parent/teacher evenings, information nights and study skills presentations. They support the swimming and athletic carnivals, and many other sporting and cultural events.





Becoming a Joey's girl

We encourage all interested families to attend the college and join us for our Open Afternoon in early March or to arrange for a private tour and explore our website to discover all that an education at St Joseph's Catholic College offers young women in our area. We invite you to call or email the college with your enrolment enquiry.





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