



St Edmund's College

EXCELLENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION



Inspiring Independence, Transforming Lives

FAITH • JOY • RELATIONSHIPS • COMMUNITY

A warm welcome

Inspiring Independence, Transforming Lives

“At St Edmund’s, our focus is on developing and preparing our students for life beyond school, enabling them to be the best they can be”.

Welcome to St Edmund’s and thank you for your interest in our College.

St Edmund’s provides a dynamic and faith-based educational environment for students with disabilities including intellectual disability in the mild to moderate range, sensory impairment and autism.

The College’s teachings are based upon the Charism of Blessed Edmund Rice, founder of the Christian Brothers, who believed that all children should have the opportunity to receive a quality education. The Charism continues today and is reflected in all areas of the College.

Everything we do at St Edmund’s is designed to teach, to nurture and to challenge our students so they can fully engage with life. Our program is unique, providing a broad curriculum rich in opportunities and possibilities.

We don’t just enrol students at St Edmund’s, we enrol families. Parents are seen as partners in the learning process and parental involvement with the College is welcomed and celebrated. The co-ordination of parents, teachers, staff and students in this calling helps create a very caring community.

We look forward to discussing how St Edmund’s College can support your child and family.

Vanessa Dillon

Principal





Vision

Our vision is to enrich the hearts and minds of young people with special needs for active participation in their community.

Mission

Through quality Catholic Education in the Edmund Rice tradition, we transform the whole person through authentic relationships and innovative educational experiences.

All members of our College community are committed to working together to achieve the best outcome for all students. This commitment is inspired by the four values that are central to a St Edmund's College education.

Values

Faith – We strive to liberate our community to be faithful to the Catholic tradition while respecting the fundamental religious diversity of all people.

Joy – We strive to enhance our students' and families' well-being through fostering a deep sense of belonging, happiness and celebration in their journey to experience life in its fullness.

Relationships – Our community is committed to developing strong relationships with one another. We aim to promote respect for the dignity of each person within a context of participation, integrity and the promotion of wellbeing.

Community – We serve our families and the broader community by reaching out to others and nurturing respectful relationships, honouring independence while contributing to the unfolding of our students' inspiring stories.

Why St Edmund's?

At St Edmund's, we know and understand educating students with disabilities. We have been delivering best practice special education for over 70 years. Learning programs are holistic and encourage students to develop lifelong skills and authentic relationships so that they can live and work confidently and independently post school. We provide:

- **Tailored and personalised learning for each student**
- **Specialised staff with relevant qualifications and experience**
- **Rich educational programs both in and outside the classroom**
- **A focus on life skills, work experience and transition to work**
- **Genuine friendships, building social skills and pastoral care approach**
- **An authentic partnership with families at every stage**



"At St Edmund's, my child is accepted for who he is, he is learning new skills and has real friendships."

Tom's Mum

A St Edmund's Education

Students follow a course of study to the Higher School Certificate (HSC) level that consists of a combination of the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA) developed and endorsed courses (Life Skills) as well as school-developed non-NESA endorsed courses. This course of study has been designed to meet the specific needs of students.

The College uses the 'Liberate' approach as a whole-school framework. Liberate is quality teaching using differentiated and blended learning in an inclusive and supportive environment and is a combination of both teacher instruction and online learning alongside a focus on student wellbeing.



Building Greater Independence

St Edmund's has been operating for over seven decades and during that time has experienced changes to enrolment, teaching strategies, the Curriculum, technology and facilities.

What has not changed is our commitment to quality teaching and research-based educational programs so that current and future students will enjoy a rich learning experience in carefully planned and maintained buildings with the latest technology.

The significant improvements that are currently being made to our site have been designed to support students in their journey for greater independence and will maximise opportunities to experience this.



Learning at Eddie's

St Edmund's students enjoy a rich curriculum across a timetabled week delivered by qualified teaching staff. Core subjects offered in Years 7-10 include English, Maths, Science, Geography, History, PDHPE, Technology (including Food Technologies, Digital Technologies and Material Technologies), Visual Arts and Music. Students also study school-based courses of Religious Education and Pastoral Care. Class sizes are small and students move throughout the College to different rooms to access the variety of subject specialists.



Our Senior Program

The Senior Program is unique to St Edmund's and is a point of difference in our students' senior curriculum. It is designed to provide a range of authentic experiences both on and off site to encourage independence, and allow for engagement in work and life skills. The Senior Program includes courses and electives of Community and Family Studies, Work Education, VET Hospitality, VET Retail and Work Experience.





Hospitality and Retail

YEARS 11 AND 12

Students have the opportunity to choose the elective course VET Hospitality Certificate II to achieve a Statement of Attainment. This is a two year course for students interested in working in the Hospitality Industry in the area of Food and Beverage. At the completion of the course students will have gained valuable industry experience, serving a range of different foods and beverages such as milkshakes, espresso coffees and experience serving customers.

This is a pathway to a nationally recognised qualification providing students with an opportunity to work in various hospitality settings, such as restaurants, hotels, motels, catering operations, clubs, cafés, coffee shops, hospitals and nursing homes.

As an alternative, Year 11 students have the opportunity to work toward a Statement of Attainment in the VET Retail Services Certificate III course. The aim of this nationally recognised qualification is to create a pathway to working in the retail sector after completing the course in Year 12. Having our own Mini Woolies store onsite means our students engage in theory and practice side-by-side, with real practical application of retail skills learnt – including customer service, money skills, stock ordering and rotation.

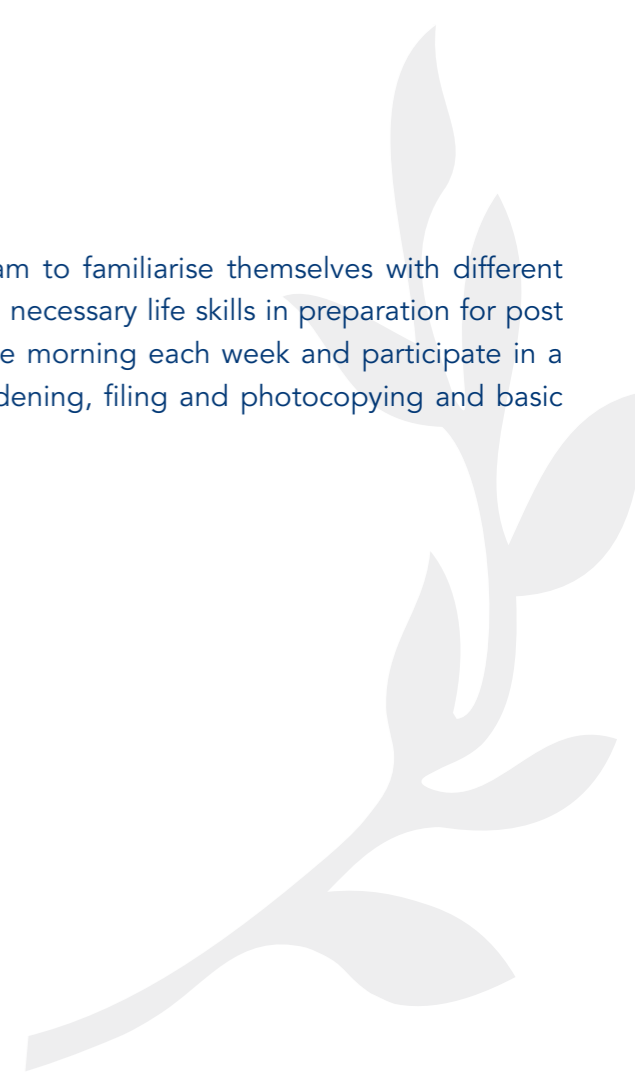
At the completion of this course students will have strong foundations to explore employment in a range of retail operations roles including customer service, sales assistant, cash handling and stock replenishment.

Both the Retail and Hospitality courses offer our students an opportunity to apply their learnt skills in industry through work placement.

Work Experience

YEAR 12

Senior students participate in a work experience program to familiarise themselves with different workplaces in our local community. In doing so they gain necessary life skills in preparation for post school employment. Students attend their workplace one morning each week and participate in a wide range of duties including data entry, cleaning, gardening, filing and photocopying and basic food preparation.





Beyond the Classroom

There are many rich learning opportunities outside the classroom, giving students the increased opportunity to express themselves, provide a sense of achievement, as well as access to the community. Students can take part in the following:

- House Teams and Sports Carnivals
- School Camps and Retreats
- Excursions and Assemblies
- Swimming Program
- Sacramental Program
- School Discos, Concerts and Performances
- Cadet Program
- Year 12 Graduation and Formal
- Leadership and Awards
- Lunchtime Activities



Wellbeing at St Edmund's

The wellbeing of our students is at the heart of what we do. The College encourages and promotes positive behaviour and respectful relationships, building social and emotional skills in a caring and supportive environment.

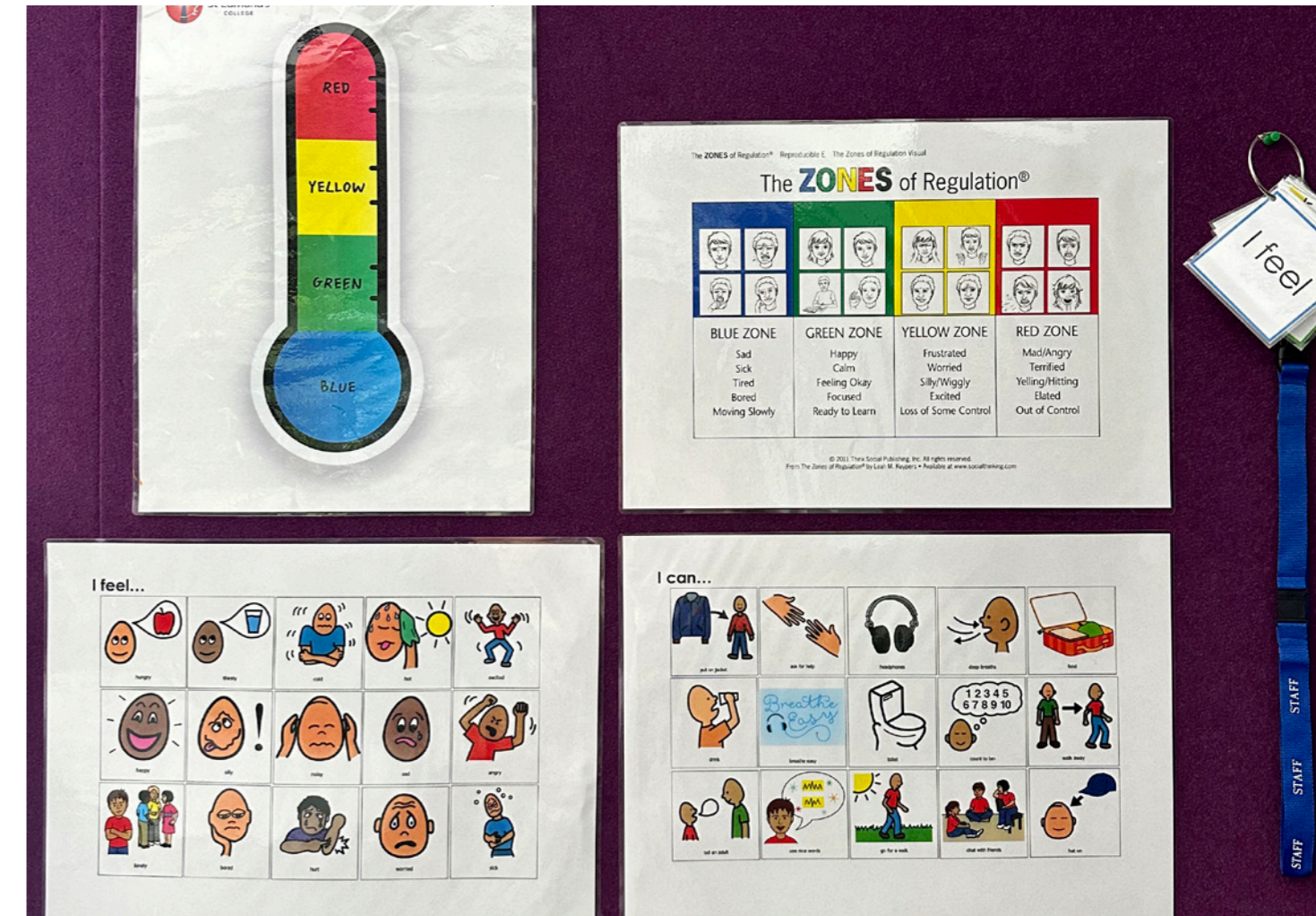
In addition, the College also implements a strong Pastoral Care Program which is based on a framework that includes five key areas: **self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills** and **social decision making**. The combination of our behaviour approach and the Pastoral Care Program provides a context for students to explore and learn to develop their personal skills and to address their overall wellbeing.



Student Support

Our qualified and experienced Speech Pathologists and Occupational Therapist form our Allied Health Team and work together with teachers to support students' learning in and out of the classroom. They bring specialised knowledge and understanding of the wide and varied needs of students with disabilities and assist teaching staff to embed these skills in the classroom.

Communication is such an essential part of life at St Edmund's so there is a focus on embedding language, social skills and AAC (Augmented and Alternative Communication) in each student's day. Occupational Therapy focuses on empowering students to participate meaningfully across the school environment and building their independence in daily living skills.



Our Community

The St Edmund's community has been built over 70 years and continues today as a close network of committed staff, students, parents and the wider community, both past and present – working at building and maintaining strong relationships, which in turn create meaningful connections. As a result, St Edmund's is a very caring community and there is a clear sense of belonging and a commitment to providing the very best experience for our students.

There are many opportunities for our parent community to come together, to listen to each other, share challenges, and importantly learn from others' experiences. Events arranged by the College such as our Parent Group meetings and social gatherings are held regularly to provide support and build community.





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FOR ALL ENROLMENT ENQUIRIES

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St Edmund's is a co-educational Catholic Secondary school and a member of Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA), a network of 50 schools, which supports over 38,000 students across Australia.



St Edmund's College, Wahroonga (Secondary) and St Gabriel's School, Castle Hill (K-12) form ERSES - Edmund Rice Special Education Services Australia. ERSES exists to ensure the enhancement of lives of young people with disabilities.