



**ST MONICA'S**  
PARISH SCHOOL WALKERVILLE



Find your place  
in our world

# Welcome from the Principal

St Monica's Parish School, Walkerville, is a Catholic, co-educational Reception to Year 6 school, and is a place where every child is known by name and nature by teachers, staff and other students.

The school offers a safe, inclusive and positive environment that supports each child in developing personal responsibility, resilience, positive relationships and leadership skills. At St Monica's we believe that student wellbeing, and the social and emotional development of the child prepares and contributes to their lifelong learning journey in a positive way. This is supported by a strong commitment to a range of ongoing initiatives, including whole school Buddy and House programs, Student Voice and student wellbeing programs.

As a Catholic school in the Josephite tradition, we invite our children and community to deepen their relationship with God through prayer and liturgy, social justice initiatives, environmental sustainability projects and the religious education curriculum.

To support children to be successful learners and leaders who are independent, self-motivated, critical thinkers with inquiring minds, St Monica's Parish School

offers learning that is personalised, purposeful and based on positive relationships. These approaches are underpinned by high expectations for student educational outcomes, supported by targeted and personalised intervention and extension programs to assist children in their learning. Our specialist learning programs include comprehensive and engaging programs in Physical Education, Italian and Music.

St Monica's is a close knit community where relationships are nurtured and continue to grow. We value the partnership between the school and families, and welcome children and families from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. This is a place where community engagement and the involvement of parents, carers and grandparents shapes and strengthens the life and culture of our school.

I hope you find this prospectus informative and it sparks your curiosity to know more about St Monica's. I invite you to contact us if you would like to visit our school and learn more about what we can offer your child and your family.

Sincerely,  
Emily Sayer, Principal

“It's a pretty great school and you should definitely send your kids here because there are really nice teachers and lots of friendly kids to make friends with!”

GRADE 2 STUDENT



# Traditions and values

*We believe that every child is held in God's infinite tenderness and is of unsurpassable value.*

Children: Close to the Mystery of God (2015)

Our values are woven into the fabric of our school and our Catholic tradition informs who we are, and who we will become.

Since 1926 we have embraced the Josephite tradition of love, understanding and acceptance of others. Our history is built on values that flow through to our school today.

We teach the values of respect – of self, others and the world around us. Care for each other is at the heart of the community we've built at St Monica's Parish School, a place where your child will be valued and respected as an individual.

## Faith and spirituality

We teach our children to be capable and competent people, learners and leaders. They graduate knowing that they are unconditionally loved by God and leave us with a deeper understanding of faith and knowledge to be leaders for a world God desires.

Our school is a place where students learn to be self aware, collaborative and socially adept. We welcome families of all faiths and cultural backgrounds and we learn from each other.

“The values that St Monica's teaches my kids—the discipline they show, how they relate to each other in prayer and work—is appreciated. They are the same as in our home, so it helps my son to really grow.”

PARENT



# Community

Our school is more than a school; we are a community. We are on a journey with you and your child during an important time of learning and development. We enjoy sharing that journey with you, valuing the involvement of our parents, grandparents and caregivers, to make the school community a place of friendship and partnership.

## Get involved

You will make friends for life at St Monica's Parish School. We are a multi-generational school, with a strong tradition now flowing into the third generation of families to attend here.

There are countless opportunities for you to be involved – from Mini Mons Playgroup to helping in class, from volunteering at school events to the Parents & Friends Committee and School Board. One thing we do know: whatever your involvement, children love to see that those who care for them are a part of their school life.

“ *Every teacher knows your child by name and that builds a friendly atmosphere for my child. The staff and kids here are very welcoming and any new family who comes to St Monica's would love it.* ”

PARENT



# How we learn

## Fun and memorable

We are committed to the pedagogical principles of positive relationships and learning that is purposeful and personalised. We have a commitment to our teaching staff's professional learning to ensure that we are offering research based, contemporary, personalised and engaging ways for students to learn.

Through our focus on the whole child, we nurture each student to grow spiritually, socially and emotionally. That means supporting those who need additional assistance and challenging those who could benefit from being extended. The benefit of being a tight-knit school community is that your child is known and will receive the attention they need as an individual.

## Curriculum

Your child's learning journey at St Monica's will follow the Australian Curriculum:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- The Arts
- Design and Technology
- Health and Physical Education
- Languages other than English

The *Living Learning Leading Framework* gives us a foundation for understanding what we do in Catholic Education – who we are, what we value and how we partner with our families to ensure our students thrive. This underpins everything we do, ensuring our students develop the knowledge,

skills and attributes they need to thrive in a rapidly changing and complex world.

Through the Crossways curriculum, your child will learn about the Catholic tradition and the teachings of Jesus, helping them develop as responsible, compassionate and faith-filled people. Through regular attendance in Liturgical celebrations, as well as daily prayer, your child is invited to develop a relationship with their God.

This is complemented by extra-curricular programs and activities, providing them with opportunities to learn and try different skills, follow their passions and explore areas where they have natural talents.

# Where we learn

## Facilities

Children learn in different ways, and our school has facilities to accommodate a range of learning styles.

Your child's classroom will be the hub of their learning – a place to call home at school, where they form the relationships that will carry them through their years at St Monica's and beyond. These spaces are designed to allow children to move and explore as their natural curiosity takes them into new areas of learning. Classrooms are connected to the MacKillop Resource Centre, an open two-storey centre of learning which inspires them to flourish, while providing a full range of library resources.

Outdoors they can take advantage of three play areas, including playgrounds, hard court and grassed play spaces and areas to explore our environment dedicated to sustainability projects.

## Technology

At our school your child will learn to be confident and careful creators and users of ICT.

Your child will learn to effectively use a range of technologies. They will have opportunities to use educational applications to support their learning, produce short films and pursue photography, and the chance to demonstrate their learning.

We have green screen facilities so they can film and express their learning visually. Their presentations are screened in class – drawing on their strengths as digital natives – and we film their learning, so we can share this with you.



“There is a moment where you can see the sense of satisfaction and wonder in a student's eyes. That's what we're about ... to teach and foster a love of learning that will last them for a lifetime.”

TEACHER





## Extra curricular

At St Monica's learning is not confined to the classroom. We ensure that every moment in your child's day is filled with a chance to learn in a range of different areas:

### The Arts

Our involvement with SALA (South Australian Living Artists Festival) allows your child another avenue to express their creativity and to share this with the community.

### Music

We have a vibrant music program which gives each child the chance to explore the joy, beauty and challenge of music. And our Community Piano – painted by children in our school – is available to be played whenever the children have free time. We also offer families the opportunity for children to access private music tuition during school time.

“ *There wasn't one thing only that attracted to me St Monica's. I really like the feeling of community that a smaller school brings. The school community is really important for the children. A small school leads to the children being more involved in events due to necessity and it is harder for them to get lost amongst the crowd.* ”

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### Children's University

Children's University offers students the opportunity to engage in an exciting range of learning activities, recognising learning outside of their school day and traditional classrooms. If students acquire enough learning hours throughout the year, they are invited to graduate in the prestigious Adelaide University Bonython Hall.

### After School Programs

Each term the school offers a selection of after school programs including Sports Clinics, Chess and Art classes.

### Tournament of the Minds

We encourage our senior students to participate in this unique program to help develop problem solving skills for teams of students. St Monica's students have been awarded National and several State titles in Tournament of the Minds.

# How we grow

St Monica's is a place where your child is encouraged to thrive, and we have a number of programs and initiatives designed to bring out their best and support their wellbeing.

## Leadership and Student Voice

Your child will have a range of leadership opportunities at every year level of their schooling. From Student Voice representatives, House captains, Sports captains, liturgy and library roles, we take the responsibility of developing our next generation of leaders seriously.

## Camps

From Year 4 your child will learn, build character, resilience and discover independence ... as well as have a lot of fun! The Year 6 children especially look forward to their Canberra Camp.

## Our School Chaplain

Our Chaplain is available to children and their families to support and nurture positive wellbeing.

## Media

Our children get opportunities to appear on television! Being across the road from the ABC means that we are involved in programs like Behind the News, giving our children – from Reception through to Year 6 – a chance to share their insights and opinions and develop their confidence.

## Sports and Physical Education

Students from Reception to Year 6 participate in an innovative sports program. Years 3 – 6 students participate in a broad range of interschool sporting carnivals. Your child will also receive regular fitness and skill development each week.

**“ My son has grown in confidence because he doesn't feel pressure to be something he's not. He regularly tells me what he's learning in class, and it becomes an on-going conversation because he's been given the tools to apply his learning in everyday life. ”**

**PARENT**



# Care for the environment



We are conscious of teaching our children to care for their world and promote ecological awareness through dedicated programs.

Through their connection with the environment children are reminded of the call to be stewards of God's creation.

## Recycling

Our students learn about recycling and repurposing materials to reduce our contribution to landfill – one of our school's big priorities. We encourage all students to be aware of the benefits of recycling materials, as well as learn why it's important.

## Sustainability

Our students explore the sustainable side of food – from the Nude Food initiative which reduces the packaging on food to learning about composting and the benefits of our worm farm. Students contribute to our garden beds, where we combine a focus on the environment with healthy eating and studies in science and health.

*“ I was lucky to have several leadership roles whilst at St Monica's. It was an amazing experience to see what its like to be a mentor and to learn to care for others. ”*

**GRADUATE OF ST MONICA'S**

# Outreach into the community

Supporting our community is fundamental to our values as a Catholic school. Your child will have opportunities to learn about and respond to the Gospel message by helping those in need.

Students become aware of those less fortunate in our community and respond by donating time, goods and money to support a range of charities, including the Vinnies Winter Appeal, Fred's Van and the Hutt Street Centre, and in winter they make soup each week for homeless people.

## Reaching out to our families

We also reach out to support our families, particularly those who need more flexibility in their working day.

## Out-of-School-Hours Care (OSHC)

We have an OSHC program on school grounds available to families before and after school. It's exciting and fun, and also safe and familiar.

## Vacation Care

We run a holiday program for children, providing another option, and have built flexibility into our out-of-school-hours services to help.

## Playgroup

Our Mini Mons 'Play and Explore' sessions are a great way to meet others in the school community as you learn together about the world through stories and play.



*“ I love OSHC because it's in the same place as my school. When the teachers go home you can say bye to them, but you get to see them again the next day! ”*

STUDENT, YEAR 1



“ I’ve been to other school visits where everyone goes about their business but here the teachers stopped and said hello and made me feel very welcome. They even involved my children in their activity! I instantly felt part of the community. ”

PARENT

## Enrolment

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You can start the enrolment process by downloading an Enrolment Application form from our website [www.stmonica.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmonica.catholic.edu.au). The website also contains information on our enrolment criteria, along with the enrolment process and fees for attending our school.

If you would like to know more about joining the St Monica’s Parish School community or if you have specific questions you can contact the school office and we will be happy to chat to you.

## Principal Tours

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The best way to see our school in action is to attend a Principal Tour. You’ll be personally shown through the school by our senior students and have a chance to see what learning looks and feels like at St Monica’s. Have your questions answered, meet our teachers and children and get a chance to imagine yourselves involved in our community.

We’d love the chance to meet you.

You can book a Principal Tour by calling the School office on 8344 2384. Dates for upcoming tours are available on our website [www.stmonica.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmonica.catholic.edu.au).



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