

# ACHIEVE



*Their full potential*



Saint David's  
PARISH SCHOOL

We pride ourselves on fostering a welcoming and inclusive community where every student is encouraged to achieve their full potential. Our commitment to providing an excellent education is reflected in our dynamic curriculum and supportive environment. By nurturing their individual strengths and promoting a love for learning, we aim to prepare our students for a bright and successful future.”

**Mia Harms, Principal.**



# YOUR CHILD WILL AMAZE YOU

Whether your child is embarking on their educational journey or seeking a new school experience, we welcome you to become a part of our vibrant community where your child can begin the journey towards lifelong success.

Your child's path to achieving their full potential starts with our school:

- Embracing who they are and what they are capable of
- Setting high expectations and pursuing meaningful goals
- Surrounding them with those who are committed to continuous learning and growth
- Teaching them how to show resilience and persistence in the face of challenges
- Believing in them and their abilities
- Instilling a desire to always do their best

This is what we offer at Saint David's Parish School.

Your child will amaze you.

*"We moved our younger two children to Saint David's Parish School and we love the school! Leadership have been amazing and we are very impressed with the constant communication we have with both teachers and leadership. I personally love how they get to know each student and their interests."*

**Heather, parent at Saint David's Parish School.**



As partners in your child's education, we are committed to supporting you in every step of their schooling journey. Education is a collaborative effort, by working together, we can create an enriching and nurturing learning environment for your child to reach their full potential. With our combined efforts, your child will not only excel academically, they will also develop the confidence and skills necessary for lifelong success.



# BE REMARKABLE

Students are given every opportunity to reach their full potential at Saint David's Parish School.

Our dedicated and diverse teaching and support staff create a fulfilling educational experience, fostering both social and academic growth in an environment of optimism and compassion.

The focus on personal strengths, emphasis on inclusivity, and love for learning ensure that your child will flourish and achieve remarkable accomplishments that will amaze you.

Your child will receive tailored support and enrichment based on their current learning level. We offer a range of programs to assist all our students, including those with additional support needs and those accelerated learners requiring extension opportunities.

We deliver modern teaching and a learning curriculum that is aligned with The Australian Curriculum and Crossways (for Religious Education), with specialised curriculum areas in Music, Italian, and Physical Education.

Our emphasis on this robust curriculum is complemented by our school-wide dedication to Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI). Our approach to teaching Literacy & Numeracy is founded on evidence-based strategies including Structured Synthetic Phonics (SSP) and a Concrete, Representational, Abstract (CRA) approach to learning Mathematical concepts, ensuring the success of all our students.



# FAITH RESPECT COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE



Our school community is guided by the values of faith, respect, community and excellence, drawing inspiration from the example of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and the Josephite Tradition.

At Saint David's Parish School, our Religious Education Program supports parents in raising their children in the Catholic Faith and supports those seeking an environment focused on spiritual development and strong family values.

We embrace diversity by welcoming families of all backgrounds, cultures, and religious beliefs.

As a Catholic school, we strongly believe in the importance of community and our duty to demonstrate kindness and respect to all.

We are delighted to be a part of the Tea Tree Gully Parish, with the church adjacent to our school. Our students are able to participate in Mass as a whole school and with classes and year level teams at the Saint David's Parish Church.

We are blessed to also have a Chapel on-site which is used by our students for prayer, reflection and liturgy.

Pastoral care is the commitment we make to ensure the emotional, social and spiritual support and growth of our students.



# A SOLID ACADEMIC FOUNDATION

## EXPLICIT DIRECT INSTRUCTION (EDI)

Saint David's Parish School, embraces Explicit Direct Instruction (EDI) as our approach to teaching literacy and numeracy. EDI is a research-based method that involves breaking down complex concepts into smaller steps, providing clear explanations, modelling, guided practice, and immediate feedback.

EDI involves:

- Establishing clear learning objectives for each lesson
- Explicitly demonstrating and modelling the process or skill
- Breaking down new concepts into manageable steps
- Providing guided practice with scaffolding and support
- Continually checking for student understanding and giving immediate feedback

***EDI's proven effectiveness promotes academic success and equips all students with a solid foundation in literacy and numeracy skills, enabling them to actively participate and achieve in the world.***

The key benefits of EDI for students include:

- Lessons are well-designed, engaging, and focused on student learning
- Teachers continually check for understanding and provide timely feedback
- Repetition and guided practice ensure all students grasp the concepts
- Use of whiteboards allows teachers to quickly assess student understanding
- Provides easier identification of students who need additional support
- Increased sense of optimism, confidence, and capacity to learn





*“EDI is highly effective and ensures that all students are being taught concepts before being expected to implement them. It follows the process of 'I do' (teacher), 'We do' (teacher and students), and 'You do' (students). As a teacher, EDI allows me to be the best possible teacher for my students as I know how to plan structured lessons that engage students, teach them using evidence-based methods, and see the results in students as they progress rapidly with their abilities.”* **Natasha Cameron, Classroom Teacher**

# CONCRETE REPRESENTATIONAL ABSTRACT

To ensure a strong conceptual understanding of mathematical concepts for our students, we incorporate a Concrete, Representational, Abstract (CRA) approach to teaching Mathematics. CRA targets the understanding of mathematical concepts through the use of concrete materials, then through visual illustrations of concepts and on to abstract mathematical notation.

The use of open-ended tasks and explicit teaching of concepts gives further opportunity for our students to develop their mathematical fluency, problem solving and reasoning skills. These aspects are designed to promote integrated thinking skills, encouraging students to communicate mathematically with themselves and others to solve problems effectively and efficiently.



By adopting CRA, we create a supportive and engaging math learning environment that allows our students to develop a strong foundation in mathematics, ultimately leading to academic achievement and success.

# SYSTEMATIC SYNTHETIC PHONICS




**The SSP method encompasses six critical areas:**


- Oral Language: Enhancing communication skills and vocabulary
- Phonological Awareness: Developing an understanding of the sound structure of language
- Phonics: Mastering the relationship between letters and sounds
- Vocabulary: Expanding word knowledge for better comprehension
- Fluency: Reading with accuracy, speed, and expression
- Comprehension: Fostering the ability to understand and interpret texts

Our evidence-based literacy program has transformed the way our students learn and achieve. Through explicit, multisensory instruction, our dedicated teachers guide students in mastering the building blocks of language. By teaching individual letter sounds and blending techniques, SSP equips learners with the essential skills to decode and encode words with confidence, empowering our students to become confident, skilled readers and writers and giving them a deep understanding of the English language.

We witness the remarkable progress of our students as they embrace the SSP approach. Their growing confidence, enthusiasm, and academic achievements are a testament to the power of this evidence-based method.



We offer a specialist Physical Education program which is designed to foster a love for physical activity while promoting healthy, active lifestyles among our students. Beyond our PE curriculum, we offer a variety of extra-curricular sports teams that provide students with the opportunity to develop their athletic skills. Our program also includes participation in Interschool Carnivals including SACPSSA and SAPSASA.

A group of children in school uniforms are sitting on the floor, playing ukuleles. In the foreground, a young boy with dark hair is focused on playing a light blue ukulele. Behind him, a girl with brown hair tied back is playing a pink ukulele. To the left, another boy is playing a white ukulele. The background is slightly blurred, showing more children and a wooden wall.

Our specialised music program integrates technology and music composition alongside instrumental instruction, offering students a rich and multifaceted learning experience. Performance opportunities include the school choir and school band, allowing students to showcase their talents and grow as musicians. Additionally, students have the opportunity to undertake private music tuition in a variety of instruments.

# PRIORITISING WELLBEING

Saint David's Parish School is committed to every student's wellbeing, which is promoted through a comprehensive approach encompassing physical, emotional, and social support. Supports include:

- Dedicated Sensory Suite
- Wellbeing Dog
- School Chaplain
- School Counsellor
- 'What's The Buzz?' social and emotional literacy program
- Nature Play and Exploration Space
- Eco Warriors Gardening Club
- Seasons for Growth' change, loss and grief Education Program
- 'Peaceful Kids' Mindfulness and Positive Psychology Program

By addressing the holistic needs of each student, we ensure a nurturing environment where every child can thrive academically and personally.



*“My children are so happy and thriving at Saint David’s Parish School. The leadership are a wonderful addition to the community and are so passionate in what they do. We love seeing the smiles on the teachers faces as they greet us at the gate, and I know my children are supported to ensure they have the skills they need as they grow and prepare for each new year.”* **Tara, parent at Saint David’s Parish School**







Our school provides students with an individual laptop including access to a range of digital technologies in every classroom. Our students use robotics, drones, green screens and 3D printers as part of their learning.



Our library is more than just a collection of books; it is a vibrant hub of inspiration, creativity, and community engagement. It serves as a sanctuary where stories come to life, transporting readers to different worlds and times. The library also hosts lunchtime clubs that foster a sense of belonging. In every corner, our library buzzes with the energy of curious minds and the joy of discovery.



*“What a wonderful school and nurturing environment. My daughter started in reception, and I am very impressed with the discipline and punctuality. Administration are always friendly to see you in the morning and at the end of the day. Whenever we need guidance, they are ready to help us. I highly recommend the school to parents.”* **Pooja, parent at Saint David's Parish School.**

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Students at Saint David's Parish School have the opportunity to explore new passions and develop unique skills beyond the classroom through a variety of extracurricular activities and community programs. Additionally, the school's commitment to community service empowers students to make a positive impact in their local community, fostering a sense of social justice. These enriching experiences not only enhance their academic achievements but also contribute to their personal growth, preparing them for future challenges and successes.

Initiatives include:

- Children's University
- International Competitions & Assessments for Schools (ICAS)
- Oliphant Science Awards
- Lego Club
- Student Voice
- Mini Vinnies
- Eco Warriors
- Year 6 Leadership Opportunities



# PATHWAY SCHOOLS



## GLEESON COLLEGE

With one heart  
Years 7 – 12  
Co-educational College  
Located in Golden Grove



## KILDARE COLLEGE

Strength and gentleness  
Years 7-12  
All-girls' College  
Located in Holden Hill

There are a range of Catholic Education secondary schools available to students of Saint David's Parish School. Our students enjoy the advantage of preferential enrolment to both Gleeson and Kildare Colleges, provided that their respective enrolment policy deadlines have been adhered to.

Providing a clear pathway for your child instils confidence in their journey, reduces anxiety and allows you to plan financially. We collaborate closely with our partnered secondary schools to ensure a clear and seamless path through your child's educational journey.



*“Our approach is to work in partnership with families and communities to create opportunities for students to encounter life to the full – in all its personal, intellectual, religious, social and cultural richness.”*



**DR NEIL MCGORAN**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION SA**

Allow your child to achieve  
their full potential



*"We are committed to ensuring that your experience at Saint David's Parish School is a positive and enriching partnership. As we embark on this journey together, we aim to create a supportive and nurturing environment where your child can achieve their full potential. We look forward to welcoming your family to our community."* **Mia Harms, Principal.**

# THANK YOU

We invite you to book a tour with our Principal to see our school in action by visiting the school website or contacting the office.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school.



Saint David's  
PARISH SCHOOL

P/ 8360 6300

E/ [info@stdavids.catholic.edu.au](mailto:info@stdavids.catholic.edu.au)

W/ [stdavids.catholic.edu.au](http://stdavids.catholic.edu.au)

A/ 40 Elizabeth St, Tea Tree Gully SA 5091

