Parent Handbook

UNITY IS STRENGTH

MEL MARIA
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Excellence in Catholic Primary Education

#MakingADifferenceEveryday

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Welcome from the Principal

Dear Parents

At Mel Maria Catholic Primary School, our fundamental belief is rooted in the profound understanding that each child is a cherished gift from God, imbued with unique talents, gifts and abilities. It is our honour and commitment to foster an environment that not only values, but celebrates these individual traits, allowing every child to embark on a journey of wonder and discovery within our world. The phase of primary education that your child is about to embark upon holds immense significance, both in their personal development and within the fabric of your family. Our collective vision for our school is one where:

- Children are granted the privilege of a high-quality Catholic education.
- Children are guided towards an awareness of and appreciation for God's love tailored for them as distinct individuals.
- Children are invigorated and challenged by a comprehensive and engaging curriculum.
- Children are instilled with a desire for learning, striving to attain their utmost potential.
- Children's unique needs are met to the best of our capabilities.
- Children are embraced by an atmosphere that thrives on mutual trust and cooperation among every member of our community.
- Children are exposed to and partake in positive and collaborative interactions between parents, teachers and students.
- Children cultivate an understanding and respect for culture in all its forms.
- Children are encouraged and actively engaged in a healthy and physically active lifestyle.

We acknowledge the invaluable role that parents play in shaping the school's atmosphere and fostering their child's growth. In today's educational landscape, we recognise parents as vital partners, actively contributing to the shared mission of enabling children to reach their full potential. We firmly believe that when parish, home and school unite under a common vision, the prospect of attaining success becomes tangible.

Central to our identity is our recognition as a Catholic school, with Jesus serving as our ultimate model. Our mission stands firm: to proclaim and embody the Gospel within a Catholic environment. This commitment leads us to infuse these Gospel values into every facet of our curriculum and school life. The synergy among our dedicated staff, diligent students and engaged parents, all embedded in the spirit of Christian cooperation, is paramount to this endeavour. It is our aim to be #MakingADifferenceEveryday.

Our meticulously designed learning program is crafted to cater to the diverse needs of all students. We aim to offer a range of educational experiences that not only nurtures achievement but also fosters a sense of accomplishment. As educators, we are steadfast in our dedication to remain abreast of educational advancements, blending the finest of the contemporary with traditional educational values. As the Principal, I eagerly anticipate joining you in this remarkable journey, one that interweaves our aspirations with your dreams for your child at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School. It is a privilege to embark on this path alongside you, and we wholeheartedly encourage discussions concerning your child's unique requirements and the comprehensive services offered by our institution.

Kind regards

Paul Hille

Principal
Mel Maria Catholic Primary School

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History

Mel Maria was established in 1973 by the rationalisation of St Joseph Pignatelli Catholic Primary School, Attadale, Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School, Myaree, Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School, Willagee and the Primary School of Santa Maria. All of these schools existed separately in their own right, however because of their size and their limited resources they struggled from an educational perspective to meet curriculum requirements. Following a series of meetings in 1972 involving the community of each of the schools it was decided to amalgamate all the schools and Mel Maria came into being.

Mel Maria today is a tribute to the wisdom and the foresight of the then Principal of Corpus Christi, Myaree, Sr. Joan Smith. Though she never worked as such at Mel Maria she will always be remembered for her work in sowing the seeds from which Mel Maria has grown and blossoms today. The founding Principal of Mel Maria was Sr. Florence O'Sullivan.

The name Mel Maria was chosen because all three campuses are in the City of Melville. "Mel" comes from the first three letters of Melville and also has Irish derivation meaning "place". "Maria" comes from the link with Santa Maria. The McAuley campus was originally the Primary School of Santa Maria. Mel Maria means "the place of Mary". The patroness of Mel Maria is Our Lady of Mercy and her feast is celebrated on September 24th.

The transition to Mel Maria Catholic Primary School's new dual-campus model in 2025 marks a transformative moment in the school's journey. This exciting development saw the establishment of an Early Childhood Education (ECE) Campus for Pre-Kindergarten to Year 2 and a Primary Campus for Year 3 to Year 6. This innovative restructure is the culmination of extensive planning, collaboration, and a shared vision to enhance our educational offering. It is designed to better meet the needs of our students, create vibrant learning environments, and establish a clear identity for each stage of learning. The anticipation and energy surrounding this change are palpable as we prepare to unlock new opportunities for growth and excellence.

The transition embodies our commitment to delivering a high-quality, Catholic education that nurtures every child's academic, spiritual, and personal development. The new model allows us to optimise resources, create age-appropriate facilities, and tailor teaching strategies to specific developmental stages. Teachers and staff have been integral in shaping this vision, contributing their insights and expertise to ensure that the new campuses provide an exceptional learning experience.

Shared Vision and Values

Our Vision

"Excellence in Catholic Primary Education"

Vision for Learning

"We have an unconditional belief that every child can succeed"

Our Motto

"Unity is Strength"

School Mantra

#MakingADifferenceEveryday

Core Values

Mel Maria Catholic Primary School is a Christ-centred and child focused community actively living the Gospel through the values of:

Justice

Justice - is recognising the dignity of all people as God's creation and treating them with fairness. Justice is acting with God's guidance to uphold righteousness and serve others.

Justice for your own dignity and worth

Justice is treating others with fairness

Justice is upholding the well-being of your community

Justice is caring for the environment

Respect

Respect – is an attitude of loving and caring about people, all living things and our environment. We are respectful by treating others as we want to be treated. Respect includes honouring the rules of God, our family, our school and our community.

Respect yourself and respect others

Respect your family, faith and culture

Respect your school and your community

Respect the environment

Compassion

Compassion - is recognising the pain and struggles of others and responding with kindness and understanding. Compassion is a heart driven by empathy, offering support and comfort with a selfless spirit.

Compassion is being kind and understanding to yourself and others

Compassion is showing empathy and support in times of need

Compassion is nurturing the well-being of your family, faith, and community

Compassion is protecting and caring for the environment

Service

Service – is giving your love to others and wanting to make a difference in their lives. Service is being able to identify a need and doing something about it. We display the Spirit of Jesus when we work with the spirit of service by giving any action our best effort. People who want to be of service can change the world.

Service to God, service to yourself

Service to your family, school and community

Service to the poor, marginalised and minorities

Service to the environment and the world

School Prayers

ECE Campus

O Loving God,
We trust each day,
to bring us unity, we pray.

To give us strength in work and play,
to be the best in every way.

Amen

Primary Campus

Dear Lord,

We come together in faith and love
as a school family.

Help us to live with kindness, respect,
and care each day.

Teach us to help others with joy and
always do what is right.

May we live by our motto,
"Unity is Strength,"

and our mantra,
"Making a Difference Every Day."

Bless our school, families, and friends,
and keep Your light shining brightly in
our hearts always.

Mary our Mother, Pray for Us.

Amen.

Administration

Vice Principals

Mrs Ros Nichols - Early Childhood Campus
rosmuire.nichols@cewa.edu.au

Mrs Cathleen Massimi - Primary Campus
cathleen.massimi@cewa.edu.au

School Advisory Council

It is a requirement of all schools operating under the guidance of the Catholic Education Commission WA, that they have a correctly constituted School Advisory Council.

In addition to this, the ongoing capital development of Mel Maria Catholic Primary School and the associated complexity around finance, makes it imperative that the school has access to expertise from within the broader community.

The Mel Maria Catholic Primary School Advisory Council has been constituted under the Western Australian Catholic Board Constitution, and it is accountable to the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia.

The Principal of Mel Maria Catholic Primary School is employed by the Archbishop of Perth and, as such, is accountable to him, through the Catholic Education Commission.

The School Advisory Council comprises members of our school/parish community who are responsible to assist the Principal with financial management, recruitment of staff, policy development and building programmes of the school.

Parents and Friends

The Parents and Friends' Committee is a strong and active group within the school community. The Parents and Friends' Committee for Mel Maria Catholic Primary School will hold its ACM late in the school year. The Association provides an opportunity for the expression of parental opinion and creates an opportunity for parents to become involved in the daily activities of the school. The Association is the official parent body of the school.

The main objectives of the Association are the promotion of the interests of Mel Maria Primary School and the students attending it. The Principal, along with all members of the teaching staff and all parents of students attending the school, are ex officio members. Other friends and supporters of the school may be admitted as members. Any parent is welcome to attend meetings and offer support in a positive manner. The two major roles of this committee are educating parents and building community.

The Parents and Friends Committee would like each class to provide at least two parent representatives for the P&F. The representative would attend the meetings and disseminate any necessary information to the parents in their class.

The role of the Parents and Friends Class Representative

- Central point of communication between families, P&F Committee, teachers and Leadership Team.
- Support families of the class with any relevant information regarding events, meetings and news.
- Welcome new families in the class.
- Work with Parents and Friends' Committee and Leadership Team.
- Support the class teacher with distributing relevant information.

If you are interested, please give your name and email address to the classroom teacher, this will be passed on to the Parents and Friends' Committee.

Parishes

Pater Noster Parish

Parish Priest: Father Joseph Lee
Email: myaree@perthcatholic.org.au
www.paternostermyaree.org.au
Phone: 9330 3584

Mass Times:

- Saturday - 6:00pm
- Sunday - 7:30am
- Sunday - 9:30am
- Sunday - 11:30am (Korean)
- Sunday - 4:00pm (Indonesian)

Saint Joseph Pignatelli Parish

Parish Priest: Father Don Kettle
Email: Please refer to website
attadale.perthcatholic.org.au
Phone: 6181 5022

Mass Times:

- Saturday – 9:00am and 5:30pm
- Sunday – 7:30am and 9:00am
- Tuesday – 7:30am
- Wednesday – 7:30am and 9:00am (School Term)
- Thursday - 7:30am
- Friday - 7:30am

School Times

Pre-Primary – Year 2		Period	Year 3 – Year 6		Period
8.30am	First bell		8.20am	First bell	
8.40am	9.40am	1	8.30am	9.30am	1
9.40am	10.40am	2	9.30am	10.30am	2
10.40am	11.00am	**Recess**	10.30am	10.50am	**Recess**
11.00am	12.00pm	3	10.50am	11.50pm	3
12.00pm	1.00pm	4	11.50pm	12.50pm	4
1.00pm	1.40pm	**Lunch**	12.50pm	1.30pm	**Lunch**
1.40pm	2.00pm	5	1.30pm	1.50pm	5
2.00pm	3.00pm	6	1.50pm	2.50pm	6

ECE Campus: Recess and lunch outside classrooms

Primary Campus:

Recess:	Year 5 and Year 6 - Passive Space	Year 3 and Year 4 - Year 3 Verandah
Lunch:	Year 3 and Year 5 eat at 12.50–1.10pm	Year 4 and Year 6 eat at 1.10–1.30pm

Bus Times

Time	Campus	
7.55am	Myaree	Depart
8.10am	Attadale	Arrive / Depart
8.25am	Myaree	Arrive

Time	Campus	
3.00pm	Attadale	Depart
3.15pm	Myaree	Arrive / Depart
3.30pm	Attadale	Arrive

General Information

Code of Conduct

All schools are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct. The purpose is to describe minimum standards of conduct in all behaviour and decision making to ensure the safety and well-being of children, staff and parents. The Code of Conduct defines healthy relationships between students and adults. A handout with the 12 required Conduct Statements and descriptors is given to all families at the time of enrolment. Please ensure you read this document carefully as it applies to all staff, students, volunteers, parents, guardians and school visitors and adherence to it is a condition of entry onto school grounds. A copy of the document can be found on our school website.

Parking and Driving Etiquette

We ask that parents exercise extreme care and caution when driving in and out of the school. Please be considerate at all times when dropping off and picking up. Please do not double-park, or park and leave your vehicle in the drive-through areas or on street verges. Please observe 'Staff' carpark bays, and 'Reserved' and 'No Parking' signs. School drop-off and pick-up times are very busy, and we ask that you are always mindful of our neighbours, and practice patience and courtesy to ensure the optimum safety of all our children. Please display your family name on the dash so you can be easily identified by staff at drive-through.

Early Childhood Campus

Parents may park inside the school grounds between the church and the school hall – the entry is via Evershed Street. Parents may also park in designated parking areas off Evershed Street and North Lake Road. It is recommended that Kindergarten and Pre-Primary parents use the North Lake Road Carpark. Parents are reminded not to double-park in the Kiss and Drive zones on Evershed Street. Double parking creates hazards and makes it difficult for traffic to flow. Year 1 and Year 2 may use the drive-through system that operates each afternoon from 2.55pm. Please refer to our website for the most up- to-date information regarding parking and drive-through.

Primary Campus

Parents may park near Bourhill Hall located behind the church – the entry is via Wichmann Road near St Joseph Pignatelli Church. Parents may also park in the lower carpark – the entry is via Galloway Street in front of the Year 3 Classrooms. Limited parking is available in designated areas around the school perimeter. In the morning, parents may park along Galloway Street and walk their child to the classrooms. In the afternoon, the setback parking area on Galloway Street is reserved for parents waiting to use the Drive-Through system to collect their child. Parents may not park in this area and leave their vehicle. The carpark inside the school grounds on the corner of Davidson and Galloway Streets is reserved for Staff between 8.00am and 4.00pm on school days. Please do not park at the top and middle areas of Galloway Street in the afternoons as this is used for drive-through.

Absentee Notification

If your child is absent from school, please email the class teacher before 8.45am. A phone call to the school office is acceptable but must be followed up by an email or written note to the teacher.

Student Late Arrival/Early Departure Procedure

- All students arriving after 9.00am and leaving before 3:00pm must report to Reception and the parent/carer needs to sign in/out on the standing iPad located at Reception.
- When arriving late the parent/carer must walk the student to their classroom.
- When leaving early, the parent/caregiver needs to sign students out at the office before collecting the student.
- If a student leaves the school premises during recess or lunch, class teachers need to be notified.

Communication

- Class communication, news and celebrations will be sent via Seesaw.
- Please remember that vital school information is posted online. Newsletters and the term calendar are available on the parent tab on the school website. The occasional note may be handed out to students. The Mel Maria website can be accessed via this link: www.melmaria.wa.edu.au
  Please check these sites regularly in order to remain fully informed of school events and notices.

Reporting

The reporting methods for the school will be as follows:

Term One - Parent Information Evening and Parent Teacher Interviews

Term Two - End of Semester Report

Term Four - End of Year Report

Parents are welcome to make an appointment with their child's teacher to discuss any issue.

Digital Portfolio - To support a more sustainable, efficient, and timely approach to reporting, we are transitioning to digital assessment folders using Seesaw. This platform allows assessments and rubrics to be shared directly with you, enabling you to view your child's progress and discuss it together in real time. By using Seesaw, we can provide instant feedback, praising your child's efforts and celebrating their achievements. Additionally, this system allows us to set clear goals collaboratively, helping your child stay focused on their learning journey. This approach not only promotes active engagement but also fosters a stronger partnership between home and school in supporting your child's development.

Homework

The setting of homework for students is the responsibility of the classroom teacher, who is aware of the individual needs of the students in their care. Parents are advised to contact the classroom teacher early in the year if homework causes any concerns. Our homework procedure is available on our website and discussed at parent meetings.

Crunch & Sip

Participating in a daily in-class Crunch & Sip break provides an opportunity for children to drink water and eat an extra serving of vegetables or fruit to support good health and to help with learning and concentration in the classroom.

Medication

Parents are obliged to advise the school when their child has a medical problem. Students are NOT to have or administer medication themselves. All medications need to be stored and administered from the sick bay in the school office.

All pharmacy medications (prescription and over-the-counter medications) that a student may require during school hours, in response to short-term or ongoing condition/s, are kept at school in a personal medical folder. As well as ensuring duty of care of all students, having a supply of a student's medication together with their care plan ensures that all staff (including specialist teachers and admin staff) can access this immediately and that it is available whether your child is on or off-site (excursions etc). Students typically do not carry their school bags with them when going on excursions.

If your child suffers from a medical condition requiring support and/or medication during school hours (e.g. allergies (from mild to anaphylaxis), diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, seizures, celiac etc) you are required to complete the necessary medical forms for your child (updated annually) and provide their medication (if required). Based on the information given, processes will be established for safe storage, recording and administration of the medication. The information is used to ensure your child receives the appropriate medical attention should the need arise. A list of students with specific medical needs is available to all staff and medication and emergency care plans are taken on excursions in the event of a medical emergency away from the school. Parents are to ensure that medication stored at school has not exceeded the expiry date. This is the parent or guardian's responsibility.

Some students may require medication during school hours following an illness or injury. Schools require medical authorisation to administer any medication to students (including over-the-counter medications such as antihistamines, paracetamol or alternative medicines). If this is required, kindly complete the appropriate Administration of Medication Plan which can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from our website. It is the responsibility of the parent to collect medicines at the end of the day. Please note that we do not have a school nurse on site.

Allergies and Anaphylaxis Awareness

The safety of all our students is our top priority. Anaphylaxis, a severe allergic reaction, can be life-threatening, and many students at our school are at risk due to allergies to foods such as peanuts, tree nuts, eggs, dairy, fish, soy, sesame, and bee stings. To ensure a safe environment, all staff are trained in allergy management and First Aid.

While students with allergies are learning how to manage their condition, we ask for your support in educating your child about not sharing food, washing hands after eating, and notifying an adult if a classmate with allergies appears unwell.

To reduce the risk, please be mindful when packing lunches or sending food for special events. We also teach students to be understanding and supportive of those with allergies, fostering a culture of care and awareness.

For more information on anaphylaxis and food allergies, visit allergyfacts.org.au and allergy.org.au. It is important that parents/carers inform the school of a child's allergies and the severity of the allergy (medical forms are available from the school office). Parents must ensure that these forms are updated annually and provided to the school office.

Animals on School Grounds

Please be aware that it is policy that dogs (pets) are not allowed onto school grounds unless they are part of a school event or are authorised assistance animals. Potentially, any dog can be a risk to children, and some children experience fear and anxiety around dogs. If you are waiting outside the fenced area, please ensure you are not in an area where children are passing, such as near the gates.

Sun Safety

Please apply sunscreen to your child before they come to school. We have a 'NO HAT, NO SUN' policy at our school. Please ensure that your child has a wide-brim school hat clearly labelled with their name.

Personal Belongings

Students are asked not to bring in toys or personal belongings except at the teacher's request (e.g. an item for news). Lost or broken personal items can cause unnecessary distress.

Birthdays

Your child's birthday will be celebrated in their classroom with their class teacher and classmates on the day of their birthday. No food is to be given out on birthdays due to allergies.

Uniform

At Mel Maria Catholic Primary School, a high standard of presentation in the wearing of school uniform is required. There is an expectation that all students will wear the uniform with pride and comply with all aspects of the Mel Maria Catholic Primary School Uniform Procedure, including school sport socks and predominately white sneakers for all school events. Uniforms are available from the Uniform Shop located at the Early Childhood Campus. Please refer to our website.

Factions

Mercy: **Purple** Frayne: **Blue**

Corpus: **Gold** McAuley: **Green**

Faction Friday is a fun, weekly event where students gather in factions for collaborative activities. It focuses on teamwork and building community. Students can wear their faction shirt (new or old) on Fridays. It's a great chance to develop social skills and engage with peers in an interactive way!

Information Literacy

Please encourage your child to become a regular library user, as this will have a big influence on the child's all-round educational development. Books borrowed may be exchanged weekly as children to support the development of regular reading habits. Students are required to have a school library bag, which can be purchased from our uniform shop or online via our school website.

Performance Assemblies

Student-oriented and conducted assemblies are held in the school undercover area at 8:45am on scheduled Wednesdays (ECE Campus) and Fridays (Primary Campus). Each year level will host one performance during the year when parents of the hosting year level are welcome to attend. Dates of assemblies are published on the school's calendar.

SHARE Assemblies – School Happenings, Announcements, Recognition, and Engagement

By participating in assemblies, both students and parents gain valuable insights into the school's activities and achievements. We believe that assemblies are an essential part of nurturing a thriving, informed, and connected school community, where every member is recognised, celebrated, and encouraged to grow. These will be run by our Year 2 students on Wednesdays (ECE Campus) and Year 6 students on Mondays (Primary Campus) as scheduled on the school calendar.

ACHIEVE Certificates

ACHIEVE – Award for Christlike Honour, Integrity, Excellence, Value, and Engagement will be presented to nominated students at our SHARE Assemblies. Families will be invited to attend.

Class Placements

We aim to create the best possible learning environments for all students. Student placements are determined by the professional judgement of our staff, who are best equipped to cater to the unique needs of each student. Students are assigned to classes based on various considerations, including:

- a child's academic progress;
- any specific individual needs a child may have;
- creating balanced groups to reduce peer conflicts;
- the need to separate certain students;
- a child's ability to work independently;
- the student's prior year's class placement;
- ensuring a diverse mix of academic abilities; and
- special circumstances such as twins, family situations, and input from parents or teachers.

Only written requests from parents to the teacher and Principal by the end of Term Three will be considered.

Additionally, we value student input and encourage students to list five peers they would like to be with in the coming year. These preferences are retained for reference.

Please note that the final responsibility for class placements rests with the Principal.

Mobile Phone and Smartwatches

If students require a mobile phone at school, they must give the phone to the Office Staff at the beginning of the day and collect it at the end of the day.

As per the uniform procedure, and for safety and security, students are encouraged to leave smartwatches at home. If needed a wristwatch may be worn.

Technology

At Mel Maria Catholic Primary School, the use of technology is designed to enhance the learning experience. Students, with the support of their parents, understand that access to Mel Maria's information and communication technologies is a privilege, not a right.

In the early years, students use shared devices, primarily iPads provided by the school. By Year 3, students are well-prepared to have their own devices, as they transition into the Mel Maria Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program, which is implemented in Year 3 to Year 6.

To help parents navigate the BYOD program, an annual information evening is held during Semester Two of Year 2. Additional information is also available on the school website, with updates provided annually.

All students and parents are expected to comply with the Acceptable Use of Technology procedure at Mel Maria Catholic Primary, which outlines guidelines for appropriate online behaviour and conduct. Students engage in an inquiry-based approach, using iPads to investigate, design, produce, evaluate, and collaborate across various subject areas, enriching their learning experience.

Curriculum

The most important part of the learning process is the quality of our teaching. We provide differentiated learning opportunities aimed at meeting the needs of all students. As a Catholic School, from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 6, our first learning area is Religious Education.

On our ECE campus, our teaching practice balances strong literacy and numeracy foundations with intentional play, aligned with the Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF). This approach fosters curiosity, memory, communication, and emotional regulation while promoting positive relationships. By integrating inquiry-based learning and explicit instruction, we provide opportunities for children to actively explore and investigate ideas while also offering clear, structured guidance to support their development. This combination encourages children to engage deeply with their learning, builds confidence, and nurtures their capacity to become lifelong learners. Through these practices, we create an environment where children are empowered to inquire, explore, and develop both their cognitive and emotional skills in meaningful ways.

From Kindergarten to Year 6 we follow the West Australian K–10 Curriculum in all mandated areas including:

- English
- Mathematics
- Humanities and Social Sciences (History, Geography, Citizenship)
- Science
- Technologies
- Health and Physical Education
- The Arts
- Languages - Japanese (Year 2 – Year 6)

Specialist Teaching Areas: Mel Maria offers a wide variety of specialist classes including Japanese, Music, Health, Drama and Science.

Religious Education

Religious education is central to our Catholic school community. We recognise parents as the first educators of their children in faith, supported by our Religious Education curriculum.

Faith Formation and Learning

Students engage in daily religious education, with parents being regularly updated on the units being taught at each year level.

Mass and Classroom Visits

Fr. Don, Fr. Joseph, and Deacon John will share the classroom Mass timetable each Wednesday at 9:00 AM across both campuses. ECE students will have classroom prayers, and the priest/deacon will visit classrooms. Years 1 and 2 will attend Mass on Wednesdays, with the priests and deacon visiting classrooms afterwards. On the Primary Campus, students will prepare and attend Mass each Wednesday, with parents invited to join when their child's year level is preparing the Mass.

Formation in the Catholic Community

Faith formation is Christ-centred, intentional, and ongoing, inviting all to grow in their relationship with God and the Gospel. Students are prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion, and Confirmation at school.

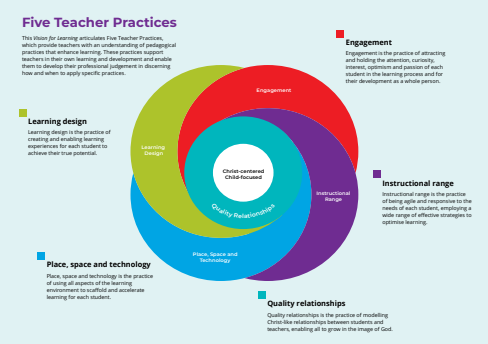
Diversity

- Early Intervention and Learning Support
- Gifted and Talented Extension Program (SEEDS)

Learning Diversity

High-performing schools pursue explicit improvement agendas. At Mel Maria, we are committed to continuously enhancing student outcomes. This commitment aligns

with the strategic vision of Catholic Education Western Australia's Quality Catholic Education (QCE) while challenging us to deliver a world-class educational experience that enables all students to flourish. Our Learning Diversity Programme focuses on creating an inclusive, student-centred environment that recognises and celebrates the varied needs, abilities, and potential of every learner. This approach highlights proactive measures to cater to all students, whether they require enhanced academic programmes or targeted support for additional needs. It integrates personalised learning, flexible teaching strategies, and a holistic view of education that considers academic, social, and emotional dimensions. The Learning Diversity Program is embedded in these guiding practices from Mel Maria's 'Vision for Learning'. These are:



Keeping Safe: Child Protection Curriculum Mandatory Curriculum

There are 2 main themes:

Theme 1: We all have the right to be safe.

Theme 2: We can help ourselves to be safe by talking to people we trust.

This curriculum covers sensitive subject areas. Please seek further information, if needed, from your child's classroom teacher to assist you in supporting your child at home in here.

Stationery

Booklist requirements are purchased by the school. Class teachers may request additional items which will be communicated to you via Seesaw.

Extra-Curricular

Extra-Curricular After-School Clubs

We offer a range of after-school clubs on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. These clubs provide a fantastic opportunity for students to try something new, make friends, and stay active and engaged in a positive, creative environment. Different clubs will be offered each term, allowing students to develop a new talent, build confidence, or simply have fun. Students will be able to select clubs in order of preference. As places are limited, we ask selected students to commit to clubs for the term and agree to expectations by completing and signing an agreement. These clubs provide an excellent way for students to engage outside of the regular school curriculum.

Before and After School Care (OSH Out of School Hours Care)

Camp Australia

Located on the grounds of the Early Childhood Campus, they provide before and after school care for all families at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School. For more information, contact info@campaustralia.com.au

Helping Hands

Our Primary Campus also partners with Helping Hands in Attadale for before and after school care. For inquiries, contact attadale@helpinghandsnetwork.com.au

Visitors to the School

All visitors (other than parents) entering the school must sign in at the school office. They will be provided with a visitor or volunteer's badge. All visitors are informed on arrival of the visitor expectations and hospitality available to them (e.g. staffroom amenities and the expectation that staff toilets are to be used at all times).

Parent Involvement

The school recognises the importance of parents as prime educators in the life of their children and the need to effectively involve them in school programs. Parents are encouraged to volunteer their skills and time whenever a need may arise. A prerequisite to volunteering in all classes at Mel Maria Catholic Primary School is the signature of agreement to abide by the Confidentiality agreement and CEWA Policy.

Helpful Websites

How parents can go about making a complaint

Information about the 5 keys to Literacy fivefromfive.com.au

Reading activities for your child to use to improve their reading nessy-reading-and-spelling-home

A free course by John Walker, Sounds-Write help-your-child-to-read-and-write

Take your child to the Library. The Children's Book Council of Australia site suggests some excellent books you might like to look at.

Mem Fox advice for Parents Ten Read-Aloud Commandments

Another good blog for ideas to support your child's literacy is Trevor Cairney

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