

St Fidelis Catholic Primary School Moreland

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October 20th, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Planning for 2027-Class Structures, sizes and learning opportunities

I would like to begin by congratulating and acknowledging our teachers on the significant improvements to pay and conditions achieved through the recent EBA negotiations. These improvements are a well deserved recognition of the professionalism, expertise and dedication our teachers bring to their work each and every day.

Our teachers play an incredibly important role in shaping the lives of our children. Their commitment to supporting student learning, wellbeing and growth is at the heart of our school community, and their contribution is valued enormously.

Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (**MACS**) is committed to supporting these improvements and to achieving pay parity with Victorian Government schools. At the same time, the scale of these increases is **placing significant financial pressure on schools across the system**. This means we need to undertake careful and responsible planning as we prepare our 2027 budget and consider some difficult decisions.

Throughout this process, our commitment to our teachers, our students and to providing a high quality Catholic education remains firmly at the heart of every decision we make.

As we begin planning for the 2027 school year, we want to provide our community with clear and transparent information about:

1. Class Structures & Class Sizes
2. Learning Opportunities

It is important to clarify that a number of the changes being introduced for 2027 arise from Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) system wide requirements, guidelines and decisions.

MACS Planning Guidelines | 2027 Class Structures and Class Sizes

MACS has provided planning guidelines for schools to work towards an average class size of around **25 students** across the school. It is important to emphasise that this is a **MACS system level planning guidelines are not a decision made independently by our school**.

When implementing these requirements, our school considers the number of students in each year level, individual learning needs, classroom space, staffing and the circumstances of each cohort.

St Fidelis 2027 Class Structures

In 2027, St Fidelis will return to a multi-age classroom structure for students in Years 1 to 6.

Year Levels	Number Of Classes	MACS Planning Class Size Guideline (per class)	St Fidelis Average 2027 Class Size (per class) (subject to fluctuation)
Foundation	Three	25	20-21
Year One/Two (Multiage)	Four	25	21-23
Year Three/Four (Multiage)	Four	25	20-22
Year Five/Six (Multiage)	Two	25	24-25

What are the benefits of multi-age classrooms?

- Multi-age classrooms are a well-established educational model with proven learning benefits. Children learn at different rates, even when they are the same age.
- Teachers focus on each child's stage of development and individual learning needs, while continuing to teach the curriculum for their child's year level.
- Through assessment and their knowledge of each student, teachers identify when children need extra support, further practice or greater challenge.
- Our experienced teachers are skilled in teaching multi-age classrooms and remain focused on each child's individual progress, happiness and sense of belonging.
- Teachers will continue to monitor student progress and communicate with families when further support is needed.
- Our priority remains providing high-quality teaching so that every student receives the care, support and individual attention they need to learn and flourish.

Learning Opportunities at St Fidelis 2027

We are delighted that, through **careful and responsible budgeting**, together with the continued **strength of our enrolments**, we have been able to retain the breadth of **specialist programs** and **enrichment opportunities** that make St Fidelis such a vibrant and enriching place to learn.

In 2027, our students will continue to enjoy a rich specialist program including **Italian, Physical Education, Visual Arts and STEM**. Our **Year 5 and 6 students** will continue to participate in interschool sport, while students in **Years 3 to 6** will have opportunities to participate in a wide range of sporting events and competitions, including **swimming, athletics and tennis**. As a member of **School Sport Victoria**, St Fidelis students have access to a broad range of sporting opportunities that encourage participation, teamwork, skill development and healthy competition.

We are also pleased to continue offering our **Instrumental Music Program** through **Experience Music**, as well as our popular **Chess Club, G.A.T.E.W.A.Y.S Program** and participation in our **STEMMAD Showcase** providing students with opportunities to develop their creativity, confidence, skills and interests beyond the classroom.

These programs are an important part of the rich and diverse learning experience we provide at St Fidelis, giving our students opportunities to discover their passions, develop new skills, build confidence and flourish in many different ways.

We are incredibly proud of what we are able to offer our students and feel very fortunate to be part of such a strong and supportive school community. The **confidence** families continue to place in our school through our **strong enrolments** has helped us protect these valuable **learning opportunities** and maintain the **breadth** of experiences that make our school such a special place to learn, grow and thrive.

As we move into 2027, our focus remains firmly on providing every child with high quality teaching, meaningful learning experiences, strong wellbeing support and opportunities to flourish.

We are deeply grateful for your understanding, trust and ongoing partnership as we look ahead to **2027- a very special centenary year for our school**, filled with exciting opportunities to celebrate our history, our community and the bright future ahead for our students.

If you have questions about the changes outlined above, please contact me via email or phone call.

Yours sincerely,

Manuela Watson
Principal
St Fidelis Catholic Primary School