



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



ST JOSEPH'S

2025 Senior Learning Center Information Evening

Prayer

Loving God,

We gather this evening as a community united by care, curiosity, and hope for the future of our children. We thank You for the gift of learning, for the teachers who guide with wisdom, and for the families who nurture and support each student's growth.

As we share our plans for the Senior Learning space in 2026, may we be guided by openness and trust. Help us to see the possibilities that lie ahead and to recognise that every change brings new opportunities for our students to flourish - academically, socially, and spiritually.

May our discussions tonight be filled with understanding, collaboration, and respect.

Bless our students, that they continue to grow as confident, compassionate, and capable learners, ready to embrace challenges and to make a difference in their world.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.





Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that MACS offices and Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne are situated on the lands of the five language groups that make up the Kulin Nation, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge their continued deep spiritual connection and relationship to Country. We pay respects to their Elders past, present and future, and commit to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

- Outline the 2026 structure for Years 5 and Year 6 - *including why*
- Outline opportunities for students
- Answer any questions sent



In 2026 we will run one Composite Yr 5/6

As our school moves from straight grades to a composite class in our senior space, we recognise this as an exciting opportunity for growth, collaboration, and enriched learning, however, may also bring some feelings of uncomfortableness.



What is a composite class?

- A composite class includes students from two consecutive year levels (for example, Year 3/4 or Year 5/6).
- While classes are typically organised by age, every classroom naturally brings together a range of learners with diverse strengths, experiences, and stages of development.
- Learning and teaching is student-centred instead of being curriculum-centred → Learning is about meeting each child where they are.
- No significant difference in academic achievement between composite and single-year classes, with some research outlining the social and emotional advantages for students in multi-age settings.

Why the move to a composite at St. Joseph's?

- Efficient use of staffing and resources: Combining the two year levels allows the school to make the best use of expert experienced senior teachers, funding, and classroom space.
- Consolidation of classes into a senior level: Creating a single Year 5/6 composite class forms a cohesive senior group within the school, strengthening leadership opportunities and identity among older students.
- Balanced class sizes: A composite structure helps manage uneven enrolments (e.g., one small Year 5 and one large Year 6), ensuring fair and equitable student–teacher ratios.

- **Enhanced peer learning opportunities:** Older students can act as mentors and leaders, while younger students benefit from support and role models within the same classroom.
- **Curriculum flexibility:** Teachers can plan and deliver lessons that integrate outcomes across both year levels, allowing for effective differentiation and extension.
- **Best for students academically and socially:** A composite setting supports a broader range of learning needs and fosters positive relationships, cooperation, and confidence.
- **Stronger sense of community:** Multi-age learning promotes collaboration and connection across the school, enhancing the inclusive and supportive environment valued in small schools.

Composite or Single-year Grades

The most important factor...

... comes down to the quality of teaching. It is the skill, expertise, and dedication of teachers that make the greatest difference to student learning.

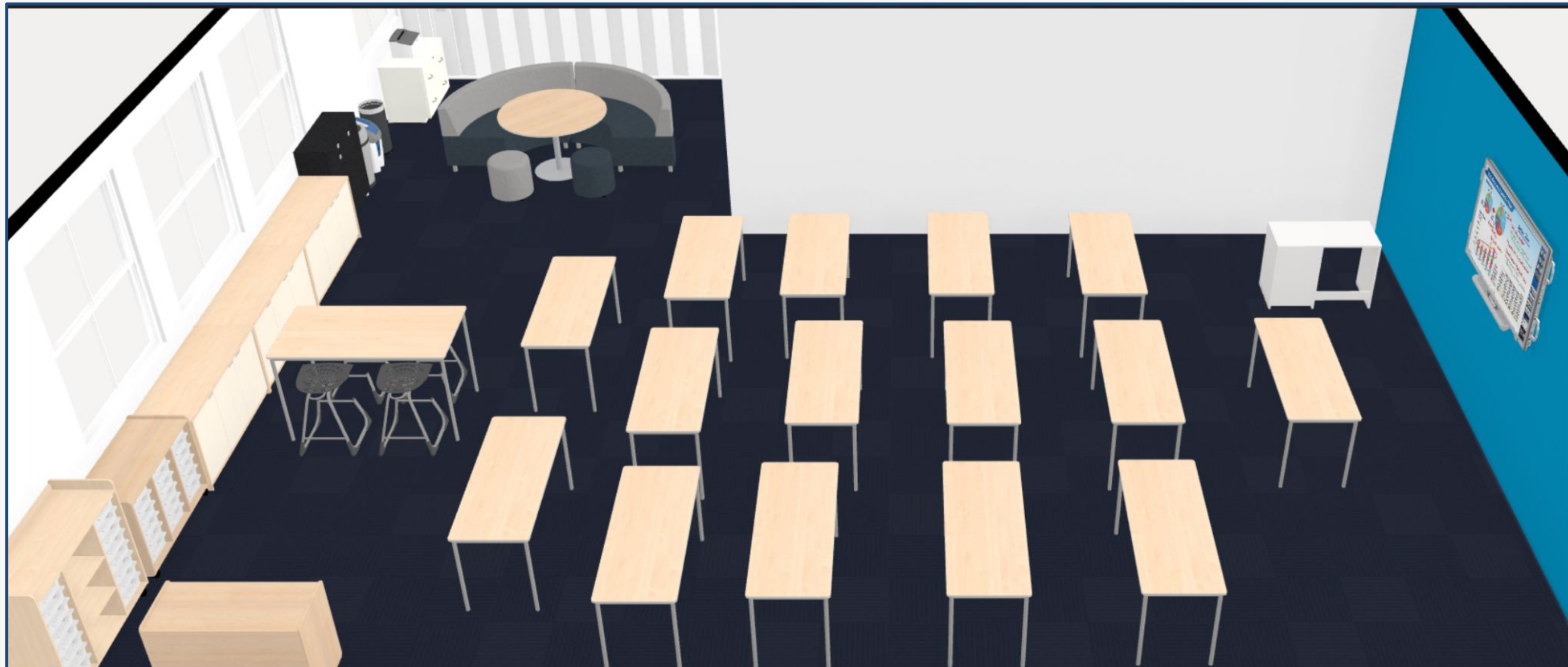
St Joseph's Malvern is in the top 5% of schools in Australia that consistently score higher than their expected level.

St Joseph's Malvern is in the top 5% of schools in Australia that make a genuine difference and add value to learners.

Senior Learning Centre

Updated Furniture:

- Explicit Instruction set up
- Small group spaces for group work



2026 Leadership Opportunities

- **Captancies** - Roles will remain with Year 6 students only
- **Buddy Program**- Year 5s and 6s
- **GRIP Leadership Conference** - focusing on what leaders do at our school and identifying the way I can lead every day
- **Speak with Power**- Public Speaking Program
- **Debating in 2026**
- **Running school events** - Open Days, End of Term Events, Assemblies
- Partnerships with other parish schools
- **Access to De La Salle and St Mary's**- Playgrounds and facilities
- **FIRE Carriers**
- **Leads in production**
- **Leading School Clubs**
- **Participate in Extension and Challenge** - Maths Talent Quest, Maths Olympiad, Shared Stories Writing Extension
- **Transition Program**- Senior School to Year 7



Questions:

I'm assuming next year will be a composite class. Beyond 2026, will this stay the same?

No, each year we will reassess and adjustments made based on numbers, school budget and students needs.



Questions:

Will my year 6 student be extended when working with a year 5 cohort?

Yes, lessons will be taught to hit 80% of students with extension and scaffolds being provided for the remaining 20%. This is responsive teaching. Additional programs will also be offered for students needing extension.



Questions:

Who will the Year 5/6 teacher/s be?

We are currently in the process of arranging staffing for 2026. The appointed teacher(s) will demonstrate strong academic practice to ensure students continue to excel and are well prepared for Year 7. There will also be a strong focus on student wellbeing to support a cohesive and positive learning environment for our Year 5 and 6 students.



Questions:

Will the Senior Space stay in the same room?

The 5/6 students will have the current senior space which will be set up to support explicit teaching and small group work.



Questions:

Will there be additional classroom support?

The students will have the support of the class teacher/s, the senior leader, and possibly a learning support person if there are additional needs in the class.



Questions:

What number of students will be in the senior space next year?

Currently, the student numbers stand at 26 students, for both Year 5 and Year 6 together.





*Small enough to care.
Big enough to excel.*



www.sjmalvern.catholic.edu.au



office@sjmalvern.catholic.edu.au



[stjosephsmalvern](https://www.instagram.com/stjosephsmalvern)



(03) 9597 6300

