

ST MICHAEL'S PARISH SCHOOL ASHBURTON

A safe community of animated learners enlightened by faith in God



St Michael's Parent Handbook 2026



Connect with St Michael's School



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OUR VISION



St Michael's Parish School...

A Safe Community

of

Animated Learners

Enlightened by Faith in God

Quis Ut Deus | Who is like God

WELCOME

At St Michael's School, we are a community of learners where all students are personally known, encouraged and supported by a dedicated, committed and caring staff. We provide a safe environment where a quality, comprehensive, co-educational, Catholic education from Prep to Year Six is provided.

We have zero tolerance for child abuse and adhere to the 11 Child Safe Standards in Ministerial Order 1359.

As a Parish school we must have a sense of corporate purpose and a responsibility for the application of the teachings of Jesus, firstly within our immediate school community and then to the wider community, which we serve.

We want our school to be a place where these teachings and attitudes are transmitted, not only through the provision of a well-planned and systematic curriculum, but through the sincere and interpersonal relationships that are nurtured and developed between all members of the school community.

We work to ensure that the learning offered, and the teaching in St Michael's School, support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

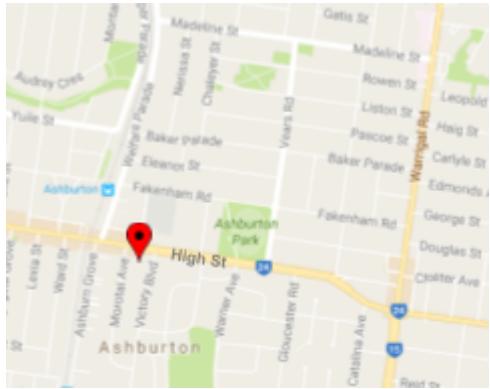
- elected government;
- the rule of law;
- equal rights for all before the law;
- freedom of religion;
- freedom of speech and association; and
- the values of openness and tolerance.

At St Michael's we aim to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment, where each child feels accepted and respected, and is challenged to work to his/her full potential.



PROFILE OF ST. MICHAEL'S

St Michael's School is a Catholic Parish Primary School in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Unlike State Schools, which are all run from a central office, Catholic Primary Schools are individual entities. Each school is directly responsible for its own economic survival and the employment of staff. All staff are employees of the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS). St Michael's is situated at 268 High Street, Ashburton, one kilometre west of Warrigal Road, and in close proximity to the main Ashburton shopping centre and both the Alamein and Ashburton railway stations. The student intake areas comprise parts of Ashburton, Glen Iris, Ashwood, Burwood, Solway and Alamein. These suburbs are predominantly residential areas.



Part of a vibrant Parish Community

St Michael's School is established and maintained to serve St Michael's Parish faith community and is an integral part of the St Michael's Parish Community. Our Parish Priest, Fr D'Arien Sticklen, is the priest of the Parish community and the liturgical leader of the Parish. Fr Darien works with staff and parishioners to ensure that liturgical celebrations with students are festive, inclusive and meaningful. All families are warmly invited and encouraged to participate in the life of the Parish. We are additionally fortunate to have Deacon Malcolm Lock in our Parish community, who works alongside Fr Darien with Parishioners, Staff, families and students in faith development.

School Principal

Mrs Annie Herbison is the current Principal of St Michael's School. Principal Appointment is only after meeting criteria developed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and completing a panel interview. The Principal's administrative role is carried out in the areas of management, curriculum development and evaluation, school policy, student guidance, and use and care of property. Staff management, liaising with parents and promoting effective community relations are also important elements of the role. Another key element of the Principal's role is to be lead learner for school effectiveness and improvement. The Principal works closely with the Leadership team and all staff to promote and support high expectations and key research based initiatives for improved outcomes. The Principal is accountable to Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and the Victorian Institute of Teaching. Parents are welcome to drop in or make an appointment to meet Mrs Herbison to discuss matters of interest or concern in relation to your child.

ANNUAL ACTION PLANNING

All Catholic Schools undergo a School Improvement Process (School Review) every four years. In 2024 St Michael's School underwent the Review process, reflecting on the previous four years of our work and our community connections. During a School Review, practices and policies are reviewed and the school takes part in a rigorous registration process which includes Child Safety and Occupational Health and Safety matters. The Learning and Teaching aspect of the school has close examination, as do the various procedures that occur in the school on a daily basis. All stakeholders are asked to contribute to the School Review - staff, students and parents.

We are incredibly proud of the results St Michael's students attained in NAPLAN testing for 2025, exceeding state level achievements in most areas for Years 3 and 5. Our shift in pedagogy to explicit teaching has given rise to these excellent results and we look forward to continuing this work with our students throughout 2026.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

At the completion of the 2024 School Review Process, the following recommendations were made for the 2025-2028 School Improvement period:

That St Michael's School:

Fosters a continuing staff commitment to and ownership of the school improvement agenda through:

- Initiatives that cultivate and sustain effective transformative leadership.
- Initiatives that continue to build the collective efficacy of staff.
- Processes for monitoring the pace and effectiveness of initiatives to ensure that agreed practices are consistently embedded.

Enhances and strengthens the whole school approach to learning and teaching by:

- Continuing to prioritise engagement with the focus, resources and strategies of the Vision for Instruction to support staff understanding and successful implementation.
- Evaluating current planning documentation to ensure consistent use of effective pedagogical practices, including the High Impact Teaching Strategies.
- Developing the capabilities of teachers for effective differentiation.
- Engaging, challenging and empowering all students to be courageous, creative and confident learners.

Continues to strengthen practices to identify, plan for and respond to diverse learning and wellbeing needs to maximise success for all students, including:

- Clarifying the school wide approach to promoting positive behaviour for learning, in particular responses for tiered intervention.
- Evaluating existing frameworks and strategies designed to develop the capacity of students to self-regulate, self-assess and enhance their own wellbeing for learning.
- Enriching and sustaining the authentic and positive partnerships that exist with families, St. Michael's Parish and the local community.

ST. MICHAEL'S STAFF

Parish Priest	Fr Darien Sticklen	
Deacon	Malcolm Lock	
Principal	Annie Herbison	
Deputy Principal	Eloise Ellis	
Office Manager	Kathy Muhlechner (Mon, Tue, Fri)	
Administration	Louise Story (Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri)	
Prep G	Room 4	Caitlin O'Donnell
1/2 B	Room 1	Kylie Ashton
1/2 G	Room 2	Stephanie Drew (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday) & Chloe Hickey (Thurs)
1/2 R	Room 3	Desiree Harding (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) & Ann Lagreca (Friday)
3/4B	Room 5	Carolyn Wilson (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) & Laura Dzanovski (Thursday, Friday)
3/4 G	Room 6	James McIlroy
3/4 R	Room 7	Jessica Casey
3/4 B	Room 9	Shae Jesson
5/6 G	Room 10	Rebecca Taylor
5/6 R	Room 11	Ray Hickey (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday) Elise Rimington (Thursday)
RE Leader	Ray Hickey	
Learning & Teaching Leader	Eloise Ellis	
Mathematics Leader	Chloe Hickey	
Literacy Leader	Elise Rimington	
Learning Diversity Leader	Emma Quinless	
Student Wellbeing Leader	Chloe Hickey	
Specialist Staff		
Sport Coordinator	Jordan Lo Ricco	
Mandarin	Lily Luo	
Performing Arts	Melanie Ford (Terms 1&2)	
Visual Arts	Jess Fary	
Science & Technology Teacher	Jordan Lo Ricco & Alannah Morris	
Education Support	Louise Story Zainab Baquari Kate Borg Giovanna Boccari Sue Carmichael Nyree Masterson Jordyn Pignolet	
Cleaning	iClean	
Maintenance	Rob Norman (Mon)	

All staff take responsibility for various areas in the school's operations. We have a highly professional staff team who are dedicated to caring for the students of St Michael's and providing the best possible educational opportunities for the students in their care. The staff are readily accessible and available to parents to discuss any issues or concerns in relation to your child. At St Michael's, the staff value working in partnership with our families so that your child will gain the maximum benefit from school.

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2026

Principal	Annie Herbison
Deputy Principal	Eloise Ellis
RE Leader	Ray Hickey
Literacy Leader	Elise Rimington
Mathematics Leader	Chloe Hickey
Learning & Teaching Leader	Eloise Ellis
Learning Diversity Leader	Emma Quinless
Mental Health & Wellbeing Leader	Chloe Hickey

TERM DATES 2026

Staff Induction & Professional Learning Days Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th January, 2026

Student Testing Day Thursday 29th January, ALL students, 8.45am-11.45am

Students commence classes - Friday 30th January

Term One 27th January – 2nd April

Term Two 20th April – 26th June

Term Three 13th July – 18th September

Term Four 5th October – 18th December



Please note: Prep rest days in Term 1 are as follows:

Wednesday 4th February

Wednesday 11th February

Wednesday 18th February

Wednesday 25th February

Wednesday 4th March

Monday 9th March is Victoria's Labour Day public holiday. Preps commence full time this week.

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours

8:50am – 3:30pm (Monday 3:15pm)

8:30am	Gates open / Bags placed in bag areas Supervision – Quiet play
8.45am	Classroom doors open Students line up in safety lines to meet teacher
8:50am BELL	Students move into classrooms Weekly Monday Morning Assembly 8:50am to 8:55am First learning session starts
10:50am BELL	Supervised eating in classrooms
11:00 – 11:40am	MORNING RECESS
11:35am BELL	Students to have a drink and go to toilet
11:40am BELL	Students meet teacher on safety lines to return to classes
11:45am	DAILY MEDITATION STARTS
11:50am	Second learning sessions starts
1:40pm	Supervised eating in classrooms
1:50 – 2:30pm	AFTERNOON RECESS
2:25pm BELL	Students to have a drink and go to toilet
2:30pm BELL	Third learning session starts
3:30pm BELL *3:15pm	Dismissal *Monday dismissal
3:30 – 3:45pm	Supervision – Quiet play (Monday 3:15 – 3:30pm)

Students are not to enter the school until after 8:30am as the school is unsupervised before this time. All gates will be locked at 9:00am until 3:15pm (3:00pm Mondays). Access to the school will then be via the front entrance on High Street. Please sign in at the front office to ensure everyone's safety.

After school, two staff members will be on duty, one on Morotai Ave, the other in the quadrangle until 3:45pm (Monday 3:30pm). Any student who has not been picked up by 3:45pm (Monday 3:30pm) will be called to the school office to wait.

A DAY AT ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

Leaving home checklist

- Correct uniform – check timetable
- Enough food for the day – brain food, lunch, snack
- Water Bottle
- Completed home learning, readers
- Diary – Years Three to Six
- School Hat (Term One and Term Four)
- Sunglasses (optional)

The following items must not be brought to school without the permission of the class teacher:

- iPads
- Electronic games
- Other items which connect to the internet

Students may bring items from home for 'Show and Tell', but they must not be taken out into the playground unless permission has been sought.

In the classroom

- Be punctual for school – 8:50am start and 3:30pm finish (Monday 3:15pm)
- Enter classrooms quietly
- Be prepared with pencils, pens, rulers, erasers, etc.
- Meet the classroom/school expectations
- Keep the classrooms neat and tidy
- Have a growth mindset about learning and relationships

In the school grounds

- Leave the school grounds clean
- Return sports equipment
- Show respect and be polite to all students, staff and neighbours

REMEMBER TO TRAVEL SAFELY TO AND FROM SCHOOL

This handbook has been compiled to provide parents with information regarding daily organisational procedures at the school and to enhance communication between parents and the school. It is arranged topically in alphabetical order for ready access. Please keep it as a handy reference.

Assembly

Our student leadership group leads the school in a whole school assembly, which is held in the Hub every second Friday, i.e. the 'even' week of term, at 2:40pm. Classes have opportunities to share their work, awards are announced, and student achievements are acknowledged. Parents and Grandparents are welcome and encouraged to attend. We have a brief Monday morning assembly and parents are invited to join us. At this assembly, we join together to pray our school prayer and read our Acknowledgement of Country.

Assessment and Reporting

The St Michael's Assessment Policy is aimed at enabling each student to grow in his/her learning and to promote a positive attitude to learning. During each term, staff gather information and assessment data about student competencies, including both what is learned and how learning is appreciated.

Reporting to parents on student assessment occurs both formally and informally with written reports, conversations and information sessions. Formal written reports are distributed mid-year and end-of-year. Opportunities for parents, teachers and students to meet are formally offered twice a year through Student/Parent/Teacher Conversations. Informal meetings about your child's progress or wellbeing matters are encouraged and can be made via appointment.

Attendance

It is a legal requirement that classroom attendance rolls are completed by 9:00am and 2:30pm daily.

- If a student arrives after 8:50am but before 9:30am, late arrival must be recorded by the teacher.
- If a student arrives after 9:30am, morning absence must be recorded by the teacher.
- If a student leaves before 2:30pm, afternoon absence must be recorded by the teacher.
- Parents are urged to see that their children attend school daily and punctually.
- Parents are asked to advise the school of a student's absence and the reason for it, preferably via the Nforma portal, no later than **by 10:00am** if their child will not be attending that day.
- For any unaccounted school absences the parents of the absent student will receive an SMS.
- Please do not send your child to school if he/she is ill.
- It is a legal requirement that parents notify the teacher of absences with a reason given. It is preferable this is done via Nforma to notify the classroom teacher.

Example: **Date**

Dear (teacher)

John was absent on (day/date) due to an ear infection/upset tummy, etc.

Signed (parent)

- Where possible, it would be appreciated if family holidays were arranged within school holiday times.
- When students become unwell at school, parents or their "emergency person" will be contacted and a request will be made to take them home. Please ensure details of emergency contacts are up-to-date and a mobile number is included. We ask that emergency persons be available during school hours and be able to drive.
- In the case of a late arrival or early pick-up, parents must sign the **Student Sign In/Out iPAD** kept on the counter in the school office



Bicycles

Many students currently ride their bikes to and from school. Parents are requested to remind children about bike safety. Bicycles must not be ridden in the school grounds and must be stored on the top courts. Students must wear helmets when riding bikes or scooters.

Brain Food

Students are encouraged to bring water bottles and **small pieces of cut up** fruit, sultanas, dried fruit, grapes, strawberries, etc. in a labelled container to eat during class if they feel hungry and to keep energy levels up.

Students will be able to 'graze' on these healthy snacks while they are working. Please do not give your child whole apples, yoghurt or anything that is cumbersome or takes a long time to eat; they are intended to be bite size snacks only.

Buddies

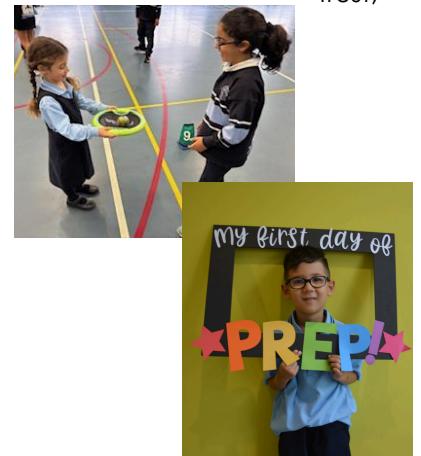
All Prep students will have a Year Six buddy as their special older friend for the year. The Buddy system works on building a relationship between an older student and a Prep child based on trust, affirmation and acceptance.

The Buddy system encourages Prep students to:

- feel welcome;
- feel part of the community;
- become familiar with school rules, buildings and daily routines;
- have channels to express themselves if experiencing difficulties; and
- develop academic and social skills

Older students, in return, develop:

- responsibility;
- sensitivity and tolerance; and
- academic skills through cross-age tutoring



Camping Program



Year Five and Six students are given an opportunity to participate in outdoor education through a camping program. A school camp provides students with the chance to develop their social skills and independence whilst living away from the home environment. It provides teachers with an insight into our students and assists them to cater for individual needs. Our school camp is linked to the curriculum and learning outcomes across the key learning areas.



In 2026, Year Five/Six Camp will be held on Monday 4th May to Wednesday 6th May at Camp Rumbug in Foster, Eastern Victoria. More information will be provided closer to the date.

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Referral Process

At times students need additional support in the classroom and / or assessments and recommendations from other professionals. In this way, we offer your children a multi-faceted approach to their learning. After the implementation of targeted teaching and learning, the data and work samples will be collated and analysed by school staff. A parent meeting will then be held to discuss the supports the school has already put in place to best support the child. A Personalised Learning Plan (PLP) will be developed which is an ongoing document that tracks the student's data, provides an overview of adjustments required to support the child, and monitors their personalised goals throughout the school year.

Each term, the Learning Diversity Leader, classroom teacher, parents and any external support providers, e.g. psychologists, speech therapists etc, will be invited to a Parent Support Group (PSG) meeting, to discuss and celebrate the child's progress and to identify the next steps to support the child's development.

When the school recommends a referral to MACS the following process is implemented:

1. The Learning Diversity Leader asks permission from the Parent/Caregiver to proceed with the referral to MACS. A consent form will be signed.
2. The Learning Diversity Leader collates the data and paperwork required along with the support of the classroom teacher.
3. The evidence is uploaded to the Record of Student Adjustment & Evaluation platform (ROSAE) and the referral is submitted to the Learning Partners at the MACS Eastern Region Office.
4. Once the referral is processed and analysed, the Learning Partners will contact the Learning Diversity Leader to explain next steps.
5. If the referral has been accepted, the Learning Partners recommend the services required, e.g. an educational psychologist or a speech pathologist. If outside services are recommended, this will also be recommended to the school and family at this point.
6. Dates for an assessment by the M.A.C.S. service providers are then booked in and parents will be notified.
6. After the assessment has been completed a feedback session is arranged with the service provider, teacher, parents and Learning Diversity Leader.
7. The recommendations from the service provider are then implemented and monitored at school.
8. Ongoing communication is arranged between the Teacher and Parent/Caregiver with the support of the Learning Diversity Leader.

Child's History

It is vital that the class teacher be informed and updated regarding any medical/special needs of your child.

Examples:

Eyesight	Illnesses	Hearing	Social/Emotional	Asthma
Speech	Food allergies	Toileting	Movement/coordination	

Child Safe Standards

To create and maintain a child safe organisation, all Victorian schools **must comply** with Ministerial Order 1359.

STANDARD ONE	Culture: Be culturally safe for Aboriginal children.
STANDARD TWO	Leadership: Embed child safety in your core.
STANDARD THREE	Empowerment: Listen to kids and respect their rights.
STANDARD FOUR	Family/Community: Involve families and communities.
STANDARD FIVE	Diversity & Equity: Respect all diverse needs and backgrounds.
STANDARD SIX	People: Have suitable, trained staff and volunteers.
STANDARD SEVEN	Complaints: Have child-focused ways to report concerns.
STANDARD EIGHT	Knowledge & Skills: Train staff to keep kids safe.
STANDARD NINE	Environments: Keep physical and online spaces safe.
STANDARD TEN	Review: Continuously check and improve.
STANDARD ELEVEN	Policies: Have clear, documented, and understood policies.

St Michael's has a child safe officer.

St Michael's has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Class Contact Lists

Lists with family contact details are distributed to parents early in Term One. The publication of these details is dependent from year to year on obtaining permission from each family. These are intended for parents to organise social occasions, etc. If you have a concern related to a school matter please contact the school. Do not use these details to contact other parents.

Class Meetings

Class meetings are timetabled fortnightly. The purpose of class meetings is to deal with any issues/ celebrations that have risen during the week in regards to the overall running of the classroom. Reports from SRC meetings are given at class meetings. Minutes of class meetings are recorded.

Ideally, students should run class meetings, although the strategies and skills required for this must be modelled first.

Class Office Basket System

All messages, notes, orders, money, etc. for the office are to be put in the basket in your child's classroom when arriving at school in the morning. This basket will then be sent to the office and collected in the afternoon. Any item sent through in an envelope must be **clearly labelled/named** so it can be passed on to the correct person.

Classroom Helpers

A classroom helpers training program will be offered to all interested parents in Term One. Classroom helpers are required for our daily Literacy block, swimming program, special event days and excursions occurring throughout the year and parents are asked to consider volunteering on these days. All new volunteers are required to complete the volunteer application form which can be obtained from the office or downloaded from the website. All volunteers must have a current Working with Children Check.

Classroom Representatives

At the start of the school year, two parent representatives are chosen from each class. The role of the representative is to:

- provide a link between the class teacher and the parents of that class for the organisation and coordination of class social activities and classroom assistance;
- provide a more personal means of welcoming new families to St Michael's

Cleaning

Thinking of the classroom as a 'home away from home' means sharing the responsibility of maintaining order and cleanliness. It is helpful for students to be actively involved in maintaining their working environment, a list of jobs that need to be done each day, and a roster system to ensure that the jobs are shared equally.

- Each room will be vacuumed and tables cleaned regularly.
- The cleaning will take place after school hours.
- The cleaner will empty classroom bins daily.
- Each class will be responsible for an area of the playground.
- Designated time will be spent weekly by staff and students cleaning this area.
- Toilets and wet areas will be cleaned daily.

Contact with School

Parents are encouraged to read out to the school office at any time by giving us a call or sending an email. We're here to assist you to answer your questions.

Meeting with classroom teachers

If you would like to arrange a meeting with your child's classroom teacher, please send him/her an email. Be sure to suggest some suitable times and provide a brief description of the meeting's purpose. This helps our teacher prepare for your conversation and ensure a productive discussion.

Visiting Classrooms

We warmly welcome parents to join us in the mornings when classrooms open and participate in our morning prayer sessions. Please note that during this time, teachers are not available for individual student-related discussions.

Messages to students

Should parents need to pass on a message to their child, e.g. after school pick up arrangements, you may contact the school office and we will communicate the message with the child via the office baskets.

We value open communication with our parents and appreciate your involvement in your child's educational journey.

Court Orders

Situations that are the subject of Family Court Orders must be communicated to the Principal in writing. A copy of all orders should also be given to the Principal.

Curriculum

We offer a strong academic program based on implementing the Victorian Curriculum and complying with the Victorian Registration & Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

Literacy and Numeracy are a strong focus at St Michael's School. We have designated staff as Literacy and Numeracy Leaders. Intervention for students is designed according to data that is collected in the classroom. Programs to support student learning are determined by the classroom teacher and the Literacy / Numeracy leader, along with the Principal.



The Victorian Curriculum Foundation–10 (F–10) sets out what every student is entitled to learn during his/her first eleven years of schooling. The curriculum is the common set of knowledge and skills required by students for life-long learning, social development and active and informed citizenship.

The Victorian Curriculum F–10 incorporates the Australian Curriculum and reflects Victorian priorities and standards.

LEARNING AREAS	CAPABILITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Arts<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Dance◦ Drama◦ Media Arts◦ Music◦ Visual Arts◦ Visual Communication◦ Design• English• Health and Physical Education• The Humanities<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Civics and Citizenship◦ Economics and Business◦ Geography◦ History• Languages• Mathematics• Science• Technologies<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Design and Technologies◦ Digital Technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical and Creative Thinking• Ethical• Intercultural• Personal and Social

Diary Dates

Upcoming diary dates will be published in the school newsletter. The newsletter is published and emailed out on Thursdays to all families. Any items for the newsletter must be sent to the office by Wednesday 4pm.

Dogs

In the interest of community and safety dogs are not permitted in the school grounds, nor are they to be tied up at the gates. If parents bring dogs to school at drop off or pick up time we ask that they be kept on a lead and supervised on the nature strips at least 5 metres outside of the school gates. Permission must be sought from the class teacher should you wish to bring any pet for 'Show and Tell.' Permission needs to be sought well in advance.

Dropping Off and Picking Up

We ask that **NO** cars enter through the Victory Blvd school gates to drop off or pick up children. Cars can park along Victory Blvd, Morotai St or in the church car park. Please remember to obey road rules and signs around the school to ensure safety of all children.

Emergency

The Principal and Deputy Principal are responsible for the update, distribution and practices of our Emergency Management Plan. Copies and the evacuation route are kept inside the door of every classroom and in the school office. It is important that all persons entering the property familiarise themselves with this document. Emergency procedures are practised termly.

Enrolment Policy

St Michael's follows guidelines which have been prepared by the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (M.A.C.S.). There are broad criteria which allows Parish Primary Schools to set their own parameters.

St Michael's:

- will accept siblings who have moved residence but who still wish to attend our school
- attempts to enrol all Catholic children who reside in the Parish
- will enrol non-Catholics who wish to attend the school, depending on the number of enrolments
- will accept enrolments outside the Parish, if numbers allow for this and
- offers a place to families who give a commitment to the school for 7 years (Prep to Year Six)

Final offers will be made at the discretion of the Principal.

Enrolment of students with disabilities

The 'Disability Standards for Education 2005' states:

"Disabled persons have the right to...seek admission and enrol on the same basis as prospective students without disability including the right to reasonable adjustments."

Under the Disability Standards for Education 2005, students with a disability or their families have a right to access:

- Information about enrolment choices
- The enrolment process
- Reasonable adjustments to assist enrolment
- Enrolment on the understanding that reasonable adjustments will be made to enable the student to participate.

St Michael's recognises that not all students with disabilities are alike. Students with a disability have specific needs, including the type and level of support they need to access and participate in all aspects of education on the same basis as students without disabilities.

The expectation exists that those enrolled at the school will participate in the Religious Education and other programs of the school, as well as meet their financial obligations.

Enrolments

Application for enrolment to St Michael's is made through an *Enrolment Application Form* available from the school office or website. Kindergartens, the school and local community are notified when enrolments for the following year are being taken. Parents seeking to enrol children during the school year are asked to make an appointment with the Principal.

A **non-refundable \$200 placement fee** is required once an offer of enrolment is accepted. This amount will be deducted from the commencement year's school fees.

Enrolment forms for commencement in 2027 are due by Friday 8th May 2026.

Method of Payment:

Accounts are required to be paid by one of the following methods of payment:

1. Direct Debit
2. Credit card (through online payment schedules)
3. EFT – Electronic

Families are advised to contact the school office for any enquiries relating to the methods of payment.

Excursions and Incursions

As part of the school's program, students take part in excursions outside the school and / or in-school experiences onsite. It is essential that signed permission is given for each child for each offsite experience before a student is allowed to take part. Travel to offsite experiences may occur on a private bus, on public transport or walking. Notices detailing the program and requesting your signature will be communicated through nForma. This is to protect your child and the teachers, as well as provide you with information as to your child's whereabouts. The annual excursion levy meets the costs of all excursions and incursions.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Many other extra-curricular activities are readily available to students through the St Michael's wider school community and Parish.

These include:

- Music lessons (guitar, piano, singing, flute etc)
- Digital Technologies Club
- Netball Club
- Tennis Club
- Running Club
- Chess Club
- Library Club
- Mini Vinnies
- School Choir
- Soccer Clinics



Finance and Money

School Fees

School Fees are set in accordance with a level suggested by the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (M.A.C.S.) along with the school's business manager and Principal. Fees and Levies are reviewed annually by the School Advisory Council. Accounts are sent out at the beginning of the school year.

All families are expected to fulfil their financial obligations to the school. Special consideration is given to those families who hold a Health Care Card. Please see the Principal if your situation prevents full payment to work out a payment plan as early as possible.

St Michael's utilises the assistance of debt collectors to recoup any unpaid fees of families with the capacity to pay.

General and Excursion/Incursion Levy

The general and excursion/incursion levy covers the costs of all stationery needed by your child. All excursion/incursion costs, including transport via bus to certain venues, are met by the excursion levy. At the commencement of the school year, parents will be billed the cost of the proposed excursions to be undertaken during the year.

Sacramental Levy

This is charged to all families whose children are involved in the First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation classes. The money is used to cover the cost of items such as Sacramental Programs, medals, certificates, parent booklets, liturgy booklets, workshop days, transport, etc. The levy is determined each year and is communicated to parents at the start of the program.

Capital Building Fund

In order for the school to service the loans necessary for the maintenance and upgrading of the grounds, buildings and major equipment, families pay an annual levy to the School Building Fund.

Swimming Levy

All children at St Michael's have the opportunity to attend swimming lessons. Lessons are held at the Ashburton Pool (8 Warner Ave, Ashburton 3147). The cost is determined by the Centre and covers all tuition and hiring costs. It is covered by levies included in our school fees.

Camp

The children in Year Five and Six are given the opportunity to attend camp. We encourage all students to take part and attempt to keep the cost at a moderate rate. Parents are notified of the cost as soon as the venue and dates are finalised. Once again, special consideration is given to families in difficult circumstances.

Money brought to school

All money sent with your child to school must be in a **sealed envelope marked clearly** with the following:

- 1) Child's name**
- 2) Class**
- 3) Purpose of payment, e.g. School Disco, Scholastic Book Club, etc.**
- 4) Amount enclosed**

This procedure must be followed in all cases where money is sent to school. If a receipt is necessary, it will be sent home with your child as soon as possible. Receipts are issued for all school fees payments made via cash or cheque.

St Michael's School Fees and Levies 2026

Family Fees

Fee Type	Tuition Fee	Capital Fee	Maintenance Fee	Total Family Fee
1 Child	\$3,400	\$400	\$210	\$4,010
2 Children	\$4,700	\$400	\$210	\$5,310
3 Children +	\$5,200	\$400	\$210	\$5,810

If attending 2 or more School Enhancement sessions, you will be rebated \$210

Student Levies

The levies in the table below are charged per student.

Year Level	Curriculum Levy	Camp Levy	Total Levies
Prep	\$905		\$905
Year 1	\$905		\$905
Year 2	\$905		\$905
Year 3	\$1,100		\$1,100
Year 4	\$1,110		\$1,110
Year 5	\$1,125	\$450	\$1,575
Year 6	\$1,150	\$450	\$1,600

****Please note - Curriculum Levies include costs associated with Yr3-6 Chromebooks, Excursions / Incursions, Swimming and all classroom curriculum needs**

Payment Terms

All families will have their school fees and student levies billed in February 2025 with a statement sent out in the first week of term. Please ensure you **provide us with an updated email address** if changed.

The Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (M.A.C.S.) Fee Collection Policy strongly encourages all families to utilise a Direct Debit arrangement. Direct Debit is a convenient method with no need to remember to pay installments. Many of our families already benefit from the use of the Direct Debit system for paying school fees.

If you have any queries or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Kathy or Louise at office@smashburton.catholic.edu.au or call on 9885 3105.

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL BANK DETAILS	
Account	ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
BSB	083-347
A/C No.	464891542
Ref.	Family Name

First Aid

First Aid is administered to students at school when required. Parents will be informed if their child has attended sick bay on any particular day through the nForma Parent Portal. If a student has received an injury to the head (usually above the shoulders), parents will always be contacted by phone and can decide after consultation with the attending staff member whether they need to collect their child.

If any First Aid matter is considered serious, the parent, or in cases of emergency, an ambulance, is contacted.

Parents are asked to sign a *Medical Management Plan* attached to the *Medication Policy*, which is available in the school office or through the website, so that the staff can seek treatment if they are unable to be contacted. It is also advisable to belong to the Ambulance Service. A trip can prove very costly if you are not a member!

Head Lice

Information regarding the detection and treatment of head lice is available from the local council. If parents detect head lice, or "nits", an appropriate shampoo treatment is available from a chemist. It is of utmost importance that the school is notified of every case (even when treated), as classmates may also be infected.

Most families with school-age children will at some stage experience the "joys" of finding that these wonderful creatures have invaded their household so please do not feel uncomfortable or in any way guilty about discussing or reporting the matter. Quick action and notification will help contain the problem.

Homework

Home learning is given for one or both of the following reasons:

- as an extension of class activities; and/or
- to develop in students the ability to work at home in preparation for future study

When setting homework, teachers are mindful of other activities/commitments which students may have after school, e.g. sports, dance, music lessons, etc., and look at ways of encouraging the students to plan and organise their time efficiently and effectively.

HOMEWORK PREP TO YEAR 2

Students in the Junior School (Prep to Year Two) are expected to spend no more than **20 minutes a night** on any homework activity, which will predominantly be reading.

HOMEWORK YEARS THREE TO SIX

Children in Years Three to Six will be set activities requiring the equivalent of **30 to 45 minutes a night**. Reading each night for a minimum of 15-20 minutes is a requirement of all students. Student diaries will be checked at least weekly by the classroom teacher. A list of SMART Spelling words are sent home for review and practice each week - these are set at the student's level within the program. Students will also have access to learning activities through various platforms throughout the year which allows them to practise and sharpen their skills. These practice tasks are most often set in the learning areas of Literacy and Numeracy.

In Year Five/Six a Homework Matrix is sent home every fortnight with a variety of learning tasks. Year Five/Six students access these tasks through Google Classroom on their chromebooks.

Internet and Email Use

The *e-Smart Cybersafety Policy* and *User agreements Policy* relate to the use of the Internet and email by students.

Interschool Sports

All students in Years Five and Six participate in the Glen Iris District Interschool Sports Association (GIDSSA) program. The program is conducted in Terms One and Two. Other sporting events occur for other year levels throughout the year, such as Hoop Time, Bike Education and the school's Twilight Sports day.

Labelling

Please label all of your child's belongings, including uniform, lunch boxes and drink bottles. Please be sure to check from time to time whether the label is still intact and legible.

Late Arrival and Early Leaving

The **Student Sign In/Out ipad** located at the school office must be signed if:

- a student arrives to school after the 8:50am bell; or
- If you are taking your child out of school during the day for any reason

If your child needs to be picked up early from school, we ask that you let his /her class teacher know beforehand as a courtesy. We understand that some early pick-ups are arranged last minute and so there might not be a chance to notify the teacher in advance. In these cases, please contact the school office as soon as practicable.

Library

We value our library and resources. Any misplaced or damaged book will incur a fine. All students are required to use the Library bag for borrowing.

Lost Property

When found, articles of clothing or property are kept just outside the staff toilets in the lost property cupboard. Parents are able to check this area at any time. It is most important that all clothing and items are clearly named. At the end of each month, uncollected items will be donated to our secondhand uniform rack.

Lunches

From home

Please give your child only as much as he/she will eat. Please see that it is in a labelled lunch box. Glass containers are **not permitted** at school.

Purchased lunches

An online ordering system, Classroom Cuisine, creates and distributes healthy, affordable school lunches. This service is available **Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday**. Lunch should be ordered and paid for online www.classroomcuisine.com.au and will be delivered straight to school.

Students also have the opportunity to order lunches on **Monday, Tuesday and Friday** from the local milk bar. Your child's lunch order can be lodged first thing in the morning in the classroom through their class' lunch order box. Please write on a brown paper bag the following:

- 1) **Child's name**
- 2) **Class / Room Number**
- 3) **Item(s) to be ordered**
- 4) **Price**
- 5) **Amount enclosed**

Place money (correct change if possible) in the bag and turn the top over. The price list for the tuckshop is sent home at the beginning of each year and is available at school. The school is unable to accept late lunch orders. Menus and prices are also made available through the weekly newsletter.

Medical

If your child requires medication during school hours, parents must either administer it, or provide clear instructions in writing for the class teacher. Should a staff member need to administer the medication, an official medication form attached to the *Medication Policy* needs to be signed by a parent and a physician. This form can be found on the school website and also in the school newsletter.

This signed form states:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1) Name of Medication | 4) Date/s of Administration |
| 2) Dosage (Amount) | 5) Time/s of Administration |
| 3) Reason for Administration | 6) Whether medication is to be taken with or without food |

Medication must be in its original container and be given to the class teacher or taken to the school office.

Asthma

Students with asthma are required to keep their medication with them at school each day. An Asthma Plan must be submitted to the school with a signature from the GP.

Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe allergic response that can produce breathing difficulties, collapse and is potentially life threatening.

At St Michael's, we work at providing an environment that is safe for everyone. We believe it is important for every family in the school to be aware of anaphylaxis so that we can try to avoid products containing nuts. Sometimes traces of foods are unknowingly left on children's hands and faces and could possibly be easily transferred onto chairs, pencils, scissors, taps or play equipment, which may potentially cause a serious allergic reaction.

Please assist us in our efforts of trying to keep the school as free as possible from any trace of these products.

- Please discuss with your child the importance of not sharing food and of good hygiene such as hand washing.
- Use alternatives to peanut butter and Nutella on sandwiches and lunches.
- If your child would like to bring a special food for birthdays, we request that you notify the class teacher of the type of food you intend on sharing with others. Birthday treats need to be provided in individually wrapped bags.
- Avoid bringing muesli bars, biscuits and cakes that contain nuts.

It is mandatory that children who are diagnosed with Anaphylaxis have an EpiPen and an Anaphylaxis Management Plan signed by your doctor and this is given to the school. Please see 'Anaphylaxis Guidelines Vic Gov' for more information.

Protection against infectious diseases

The State Health Department requires parents/guardians to have their children vaccinated for the four to five year old booster vaccinations (*Triple Antigen – infrix and poliomyelitis*) prior to school entry. Vaccination records are held by the Council Health Department. This is an important record and the school requires a copy of every child's immunisation history statement.

Infectious diseases:

The school should be contacted in the case of an infectious disease, head lice or prolonged illness. This includes COVID-19 unless a medical certificate of recovery is produced, exclusion from school is as follows:

• COVID-19	As per government health advice
• Gastro	A minimum of 24 hours after symptoms cease
• Measles	Until at least four days from the appearance of rash. Unimmunised contacts excluded until 14 days after appearance of rash
• German measles	Until fully recovered or at least four days after the onset of rash
• Impetigo (School sores)	Until sores have fully healed. May be allowed to attend school, but sores must be treated and covered
• Pediculosis (Head lice)	Until treated, if you find head lice in your child's hair, please advise the school
• Ringworm	Until appropriate treatment has begun
• Mumps	Nine days or until swelling goes down
• Chicken pox	Until fully recovered or at least five days after the eruption first appears
• Conjunctivitis	Until discharge from the eyes has stopped
• Tuberculosis	Until a medical certificate is supplied
• Whooping cough	Five days after starting antibiotic treatment

Medical and Dental Appointments

If your child needs to leave school early for a medical or dental appointment, or for any other reason, please notify your child's class teacher in writing. No child is allowed to go home alone during school hours. Please arrange to have your child picked up if he/she has an appointment. If a student is to attend an appointment during school hours, parents should collect him/her from the school office and sign him/her out via the **Student Sign In/Out ipad**.

Meditation

Meditation is practised at St Michael's as part of our Religious Education and Wellbeing Programs. Staff and all classes practise Meditation daily at 11:45pm. Any parents or visitors in attendance are welcome to join us while we meditate.

Mobile Phones

Our school expectation is that mobile phones must be placed in classroom lock boxes upon arrival and must not be used at school unless teacher permission is given. If you feel it is necessary for your child to have a mobile phone for safety reasons when walking to and from school, it must be on silent mode. The school will not take any responsibility for lost or damaged mobile phones. Please ensure that your child understands the responsibility that comes with owning a mobile phone. If needed, child contact with parents can be made via the school office phone if it is necessary.

NAPLAN Testing

National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy Testing (NAPLAN) is the name given to the national testing program. NAPLAN is conducted each year for Years Three and Five. The Department of Education

(Vic) provides each school and the families of each child with formal reports of participation in NAPLAN. Specific days for testing of St Michael's students will be provided closer to the time.

NAPLAN TESTING PERIOD FOR 2026
Wednesday 11 th March to Monday 23 rd March

Newsletter

The School Newsletter is the main communication between home and school. The link to the weekly newsletter is sent via nForma on Thursdays and is also available on the school website www.smashburton.catholic.edu.au. If you are having difficulty accessing the newsletter, please email the office to have this rectified.

Please email newsletter@smashburton.catholic.edu.au no later than the **Wednesday prior to 4:00pm** if you have any items for the newsletter. Items received after this time will be postponed to the following issue.

nForma - Communication System

St Michael's School uses the Nforma Portal, a secure online platform, for medical records, First Aid information, permission forms, notices, weekly newsletter and academic reports. Each student has his/her own profile within the system which parents/caregivers can update as required. This is extremely helpful so staff know exactly what to do and who to call in an emergency. Moreover, this will ensure that important information such as parent email addresses and contact numbers are always kept up to date. Digital forms and information also make communication between home and school more efficient and effective, thus reducing the risk of you missing important information.

The portal is accessed via the nForma app which can be downloaded onto your smartphone. It can also be accessed on your computer via the website. When notices are posted, parents will receive a push notification from the app so you can attend to important details as quickly as possible. Make contact with the school office to set up your nForma account.

Office Hours

St Michael's School Office is open from 8:30am to 4:00pm daily. Please email office@smashburton.catholic.edu.au outside of these hours.

Open Days

Open Days are scheduled in Term One. Bookings are not required for these school tours. Prospective families can come along at any time during the allocated times below, or they can arrange a tour through the school office at a time that is mutually agreed with office staff.

SCHOOL OPEN DAYS FOR 2026	
Thursday 5th March	9:30am - 5:00pm
Friday 20th March	9:30am - 5:00pm
Sunday 22nd March (Special 80th Anniversary Opening)	12 noon - 2pm
Wednesday 23rd April	9:30am - 5:00pm
Saturday 9th May	10.00am - 12 noon
Wednesday 13th May	9.30am - 5.00pm

Out of School Hours Care

St Michael's Out of School Hours Care Program, run by TheirCare, provides supervised care for students from **7:00 – 8:30am and 3:30 – 6:00pm Monday to Friday**. Holiday care is also available onsite through TheirCare. Our program meets the National Accreditation Standards for Out of School Hours Care.

For information and registration go to the **Parent Portal** at www.theircare.com.au or phone on **1300 072 410**.

Parent Concerns

If your child has experienced issues with another child in the playground or classroom, our school procedure is that you discuss this with your child's class teacher and then, where necessary, with Annie Herbison or a member of the Leadership Team. Class contact lists distributed to parents are intended for parents to organise social occasions rather than to ring parents about behaviour issues concerning their child. As part of our school procedure, the staff appreciate that you trust us to deal with school issues. Annie, Eloise or a member of the Leadership Team will inform you about any major issues concerning your child that affects his/her safety or another student's safety at school.

Parental Involvement

A feeling of strong parental interest and involvement pervades the whole school community. This is evidenced by the welcome presence of parents in the classrooms, at school enhancement sessions, participating on committees, and celebrating the social life of our community through various fundraising activities.

There are many opportunities for you to become involved in the life of the school and the Parish. While your child attends St Michael's, we urge you to become involved with some of our activities or groups. Briefly, these are as follows: Parents' and Friends' Auxiliary (PFA), School Advisory Council (SAC).

Less formal avenues are available for parental involvement through activities such as:

- Library
- Sacramental Program
- Special Days and Celebrations
- Classroom Helpers
- Interschool Sports
- Excursions
- Swimming Program

Parents' and Friends' Auxiliary (PFA)

The PFA is a committee that performs two vital roles at St Michael's:

- Coordination of fundraising; and
- Organising social events

Fundraising

It is only through fundraising that we are able to maintain and improve many of the amenities and resources the students use on a daily basis. Within the last two years, with the support of the parent community, the PFA has facilitated essential projects such as purchasing technology equipment, purchasing and maintaining Maths and Literacy resources, purchasing a projector and screen for the hall and furniture for classrooms, provided funds for our school therapy dog, and the cost of online safety platform for students. In 2026, a major project was undertaken in resurfacing the netball and basketball courts and carpark area. This could not have been possible without the commitment of families in their fundraising through the PFA.



Social events

Social events organised by the PFA are designed to draw us together as a community. They provide valuable opportunities to share a drink and a chat, to laugh, to form friendships, and to belong.

How to become involved

All parents, including Prep parents, receive an email requesting parents to volunteer for PFA. The PFA asks for committee members at the end of the year. All are welcome to nominate for the following committee positions:

- Chairperson;
- Secretary;
- Treasurer;
- General Committee;
- Class Rep Liasons; and
- Publicity Officer

From time to time, sub-committees are formed to focus on specific events or fundraising efforts. Notification of activities and meetings will be published in the School Newsletter. All parents are encouraged to consider participation in this vital part of the school community. The PFA always welcomes the comments and suggestions of parents. Please feel free to contact committee members with your feedback or forward them in writing to pfa@smashburton.catholic.edu.au.

PFA Membership and roles for 2026 will be confirmed early in the school year and advertised in our school newsletter.

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

The PPC is an integral part of St Michael's Parish Leadership Team. Both the Parish Vision and Mission Statement guide its activities.

Parish Vision

Alive to the urgings of the Spirit, guided by our faith and our traditions, St Michael's Parish: welcomes and cares for the community; engages its people in ministry; comes together joyfully to celebrate and worship; explores and bears witness to our beliefs; and reaches out through active service to our own and the wider community.

Mission Statement

A vibrant, discerning Parish seeking to be inclusive and caring for all.

The Council faithfully seeks to fulfil the pastoral objectives of:

- Community and Hospitality
- Faith Formation
- Worship in Faith and
- Service and Outreach

The Council is responsible for advising and supporting the Parish Priest to enable him to perform his duties.

Practically, the Council is responsible for:

- Developing a strategic plan every five years, including setting pastoral objectives
- Supporting the Parish Priest and Team in the exercise of their day-to-day responsibilities
- Liaising with the Parish Finance Committee regarding matters with financial implications
- Liaising with, supporting and encouraging the activities of all Parish groups
- Engaging with and leading the Parish community so as to fulfil the Council's objectives

The Council membership consists of:

- The Parish Priest (ex officio);
- The School Principal (ex officio);
- The Pastoral Associate (ex officio); and
- Up to nine parishioner members who support the Parish Priest

St Michael's is a vibrant and active Parish with over 40 different groups, one major group being the school community. The Parish Pastoral Council supports and serves the many varied groups, including the school community. The Council continues to maintain and strengthen the relationship between the Parish and School,

which is enabled by the School Principal being an ex official member. The Parish Pastoral Council is also fortunate to have many past and current parents actively involved in the parish life of St Michael's.

The Parish Pastoral Council invites new and existing families within the school community to participate in the many groups or ministries within the Parish. This is a wonderful opportunity to live out the gospel and belong to the community of St Michael's.

PPC COMMITTEE FOR 2026			
Ex Officio	Fr Darien Sticklen Annie Herbison Malcolm Lock	General members	Greg Edwards Kerin Arthur Paul O'Dwyer Michael Smith Giulietta Petrone
Chairperson	John Whitehouse		
Deputy Chairperson	Annemarie Marshall		

Playground Supervision

The playground is divided into three areas for supervision.

- **Area 1:** Quadrangle and Toilets
- **Area 2:** Tennis Courts and Junior Playground
- **Area 3:** Blue Court and Biggie Basketball Court
- **Area 4:** First Aid

Students will not be given permission to leave the playground at break times.

The class teacher will lock the classroom at recess and lunchtime. All teachers on yard duty wear orange vests and take a bag stocked with gloves, tissues, band aids, etc.

Gates are locked by 9:00am and opened at 3:15pm (3:00pm Mondays) daily.

Prep Transition

As part of our Prep 2027 Transition Program at St Michael's, we offer Art, Music and Kinder Kids Reading sessions for pre-schoolers and parents during the 2026 school year. Not only is it a fun morning of story time for our Year Five and Six students to read to pre-schoolers, it is also free!

Families of students wishing to attend St Michael's in 2027 are advised to enrol now. Enrolment forms are due Friday 8th May, 2026.

Punctuality

The school expects **ALL** students to be at school on time.

Being punctual is important for:

- your child's feeling of security
- developing your child's organisational and social skills and
- ensuring classroom programs begin on time

Please bring your child to school before the bell goes at 8:50am. This helps your child settle into classroom routines without feeling rushed.

Please be on time when picking up your child. A few minutes can seem a long time when everyone else is being picked up. If you are running late, please contact the school office so this information can be passed onto your child. If parents are unable to pick their child up before 3.45pm (3.30pm Mondays), parents need to book their child into After School Care.

Literacy & Numeracy Intervention

Intervention is an integral part of our school-based program. Students may require intervention with their learning if they are operating above the year level standard or below it. Most intervention for students occurs within the classroom setting by the classroom teacher. Knowledge gathered in our ongoing assessments throughout the year assists us in knowing who needs intervention and in what areas.

Intervention is provided for students alongside their classroom learning. This can be undertaken by other teaching staff or by a Learning Support Officer. At times this intervention is individual and at other times it is in small focus groups with students who may have some similar needs. Sometimes it is within the class and other times it is taken separately from the classroom environment.

Participation in any intervention at St Michael's School is determined after whole school assessment data has been received and staff members discuss specific needs of students and their progress in the classroom. The length of time in intervention is also determined by the staff team. These discussions are shared with parents and parents are kept informed of student progress through Parent / Teacher Conversations, Program and Support Group meetings and informal meetings / phone conversations.

Intervention is designed such that after a period of time students have built confidence and competence to continue their learning with less support and to work towards achieving the year level standard. **It develops independence and problem solving skills.** Students need a variety of role models of Literacy in the classroom in order to continue their overall development.

Reading and Writing skills are explicitly taught in Literacy intervention sessions in smaller groups than can be accessed in the classroom. Participation in Literacy Intervention

Respectful Relationships

The Respectful Relationships Team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Wellbeing and Learning Diversity Leader, Teachers, Parent Representative and student representatives. Our role is to create a school community where all staff, students and families are equally respected and valued and enjoy equity of opportunity, outcomes and experiences.

The Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships learning materials which underpin our Wellbeing program have been designed for teachers in primary and secondary schools to develop students' emotional and positive relationship skills. The promotion of social and emotional skills and positive gender norms in children and young people has been shown to improve health and wellbeing outcomes. The eight social emotional topics taught are **Emotional Literacy, Personal Strengths, Positive Coping, Problem Solving, Stress Management, Help-Seeking, Gender and Identity** and **Positive Gender Relations.**

Religious Education

The Religious Education program aims to help the students grow in their awareness of God, self, others and the faith community.

We acknowledge that the prime place for catechesis is within the family and the school supports the family by its classroom program and the general life of the school.

The Religious Education program is based on *Horizons of Hope* provided by the Archdiocese of Melbourne and MACS.

Throughout the year, there are opportunities for parents to join with the students in prayer services, family faith formation and class Masses. Notices of these special Masses will be sent home with children from the classes involved.

Reports and Student/Parent/Teacher/ Conversations

In Term One and at mid-year, there is a compulsory Student/Parent/Teacher Conversation. A written report is given at the middle and end of the year. Data and the student's learning is discussed and goals are set in collaboration with the teacher, parent and student.

Sacramental Education

SACRAMENTAL CEREMONIES FOR 2026		
First Reconciliation: Celebrated in Year Three	Wednesday 18th March	5.30-7.00pm
First Eucharist: Celebrated in Year Four	Saturday 30th May	6.00pm
	Sunday 31st May	10.30am
Confirmation: Celebrated in Year Six	Tuesday 27th October	7.00pm

Scholastic Book Club

Order forms will be sent home with your children each term. If you wish to purchase any books, please complete online order forms.

School Advisory Council (S.A.C.)

St Michael's School is an integral part of the church's life in this community.

Parents are the prime educators of their children and as such, carry this responsibility. The Principal and teaching staff assist the parents in the discharge of their responsibilities by providing an education for the children at the school.

The Purpose and Responsibilities of the S.A.C.

The St Michael's School Advisory Council advises and supports the Parish Priest and Principal in fulfilling their responsibility and exercising their authority on matters pertaining to the management and future direction of St Michael's School. The Council does not constitute a board of directors. Therefore, members of the council are not required to fulfil the legal duties normally associated with the role of directors.

Statement of Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the School Advisory Council are to:

- a) Promote the Catholic ethos of the school and to support its Religious Education programs
- b) Provide advice on the development and review of school policies
- c) Plan for the future of the Parish Primary School and its ability to accommodate future enrolments
- d) Contribute to the selection process for the School principal.

Membership & Support Structure

The Council consists of members from the following groups.

Ex Official Members

- Parish Priest
- Principal
- Deputy Principal

School Community Representatives

There are two kinds of school community representatives: elected representatives and appointed representatives. Four representatives are appointed as a result of an electoral process. Two representatives are appointed by the Principal and Parish Priest. S.A.C. members for 2026 are as follows.

SAC MEMBERS FOR 2026			
Ex Officio	Fr Darien Sticklen	General Members	Haydon Day
Staff Representative	Annie Herbison		Emily Fadeyev
	Eloise Ellis (Deputy Prin)		Hayley Betros
Chairperson	Charlotte Jones		Charlie Carter
Secretary	Grace Chung		

School Closure Days

Each year, the school is closed at various times to enable the staff to take part in Professional Learning.

The purpose of Professional Learning days is to ensure that staff are kept informed of the latest teaching research, methods and strategies, and that curriculum policies are developed. The school's programs are then assessed and updated when necessary. Parents are given as much notice as possible of school closure days; these are usually communicated at the beginning of the school year. Families will be advised in the School Newsletter about upcoming School Closure Days.

School Enhancement

'School Enhancement' is the term given to Working Bees here at St Michael's. School Enhancement Sessions are held throughout the school year, either on a Friday night 5:00 – 7:00pm or a Saturday morning from 9:00 – 11:00am. Each family is encouraged to participate in School Enhancement Sessions to maintain and develop the school facilities and grounds. Families who attend two School Enhancement Sessions will have the Enhancement Levy discounted.

WE INVITE YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED AND ATTEND AT LEAST TWO OF THE FOLLOWING SESSIONS TO ENHANCE OUR PARISH AND SCHOOL.

To book participation in an Enhancement Session, please keep an eye on the weekly newsletter and notices via nForma.

SCHOOL ENHANCEMENT SESSIONS FOR 2026	
Saturday 14th March	9:00 – 11:00am
Saturday 23rd May	9:00 – 11:00am
Friday 13th November	5:00 – 7:00pm

School Grounds and Buildings

The school is situated on 1.4 hectares of land. This includes:

- Fourteen classrooms
- 8 General Learning Studios
- Administration area
- Intervention room
- Teacher Collaboration Areas
- Tree House Spaces for Parent/Teacher/Child Reading and/or Literacy Sessions
- Performing Arts Room
- Black Box Theatre
- Visual Arts room
- Uniform Shop
- The Hub (hall)
- Internal Student Amenities
- Junior School adventure playground
- Science/ Stem centre
- Library
- Resource Centre
- Middle and Senior School adventure playground
- Senior basketball/netball court
- Artificial grass tennis courts

School Nursing Service

The School Nursing Service operates a medical service to help children with health problems or accepting teacher referrals. Prep students will be screened for any speech, hearing or visual impairment on a priority basis each year. Students identified with concerns in previous years are also examined.

On the teacher's recommendation, and with parent approval, students may be checked for speech, hearing, visual or other medical impairment. In all cases, parents are contacted if there are any concerns regarding their child's health.

School Photographs

School photographs are taken annually. Parents are asked to order and pay online for the photographs prior to the given day. Class photos, individual photos and family portraits are available, however, there is no obligation to make a purchase.

In 2026, school photos will be held on Wednesday 11th March

School Policies

School Policies are available for parents to view on the school website (www.smashburton.catholic.edu.au).

School Population and Year Levels

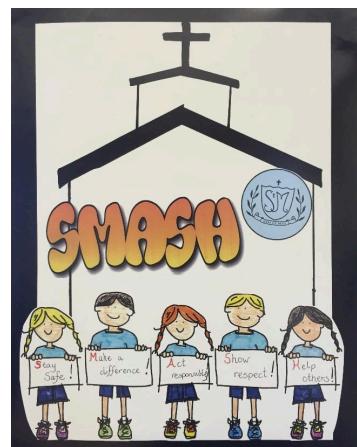
In 2026 St Michael's has a population of 211 students in 10 classes:

- 1 x Prep
- 3 x Year One/Two
- 3 x Year Three/Four
- 3 x Year Five/Six

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL)

At St Michael's we believe in providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment through proactive Positive Behaviour Learning that enables students to flourish whilst being enlightened by faith in God.

Through Positive Behaviour Learning we believe in giving relevant, timely intrinsic and extrinsic feedback in relation to student behaviour. Classroom teachers give verbal praise and acknowledgement related to the SMASH expectations to ensure students understand and demonstrate the expected behaviours. St Michael's is a Restorative Practices accredited school. As part of the whole school approach to student wellbeing, all students are expected to follow school expectations and understand that all people in our school community have rights and responsibilities.



When speaking with our students about their behaviour we are committed to the use of a restorative approach. This restorative approach:

- Promotes awareness of others, responsibility and empathy
- Promotes reaffirming relationships through programs that teach social skills and emotional literacy
- Involves direct participation of those affected by misconduct in its resolution
- Promotes repairing relationships, rather than behaviour management
- Provides consistency
- Is concerned with establishing or re-establishing relationships in which each person's rights to equal dignity, concern and respect are satisfied

St Michael's is immersed in a five-year framework called Positive Behaviour Learning (PBL). It is a framework based on improving classroom and school climate, decreasing reactive management, maximising proactive management, improving support for students, and integrating academic and behaviour initiatives. It is a continuum of evidence-based interventions to improve the academic and behavioural outcomes for all students. SWPBL focuses on a whole school, consistent approach to behaviour and the wellbeing of our students.

PBL ensures all staff and students understand the expectations of the school and there is a clear, consistent approach to Behaviour Management throughout the school. A crucial element of PBL is student wellbeing. The Student Wellbeing Leader is an integral part of the PBL team.

Our school wide expectations are:

Stay safe Make a difference Act responsibly Show respect Help others

Please note, corporal punishment is never used at St Michael's School.

PBL TEAM FOR 2026	
Principal	Annie Herbison
Mental Health & Wellbeing leader	Chloe Hickey
Deputy Principal	Eloise Ellis
Learning Diversity Leader	Emma Quinless

Please contact Chloe Hickey (chickey@smashburton.catholic.edu.au) if you have any further questions about PBL.

Matrix of Expected Behaviours



	Classroom Spaces	Outdoor Spaces	Community Spaces	Transition Spaces	Toilets
<i>Stay Safe by:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping our hands, feet and objects to ourselves • Walking • Using resources/equipment appropriately • Sitting safely on your chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping your hands and feet to yourself • Moving appropriately • Using equipment safely • Playing appropriate games in the appropriate location • Being aware of our surroundings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walking in your safety line • Following staff instructions • Staying where staff can see you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lining up quietly in your safety line when the bell goes • Walking to and from spaces • Walking safely up or down the stairs on the left • Respecting everyone's personal space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washing and drying your hands • Using soap and water appropriately • Using the water and toilet paper appropriately
	Classroom Spaces	Outdoor Spaces	Community Spaces	Transition Spaces	Toilets
<i>Make a difference by:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including others • Giving my best effort • Keeping work spaces clean and tidy • Being a resilient learner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including others • Playing fairly with others • Keeping school property where it belongs • Collecting lost property and other items 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being respectful of all, wherever you are • Respecting and caring for the environment • Representing our school with pride 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modeling appropriate behaviour • Moving quietly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting problems you see
	Classroom Spaces	Outdoor Spaces	Community Spaces	Transition Spaces	Toilets
<i>Act Responsibly by:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following staff instructions • Looking after personal and school property • Using Help Seeking strategies • Following our Digital Technologies User Agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following staff instructions • Playing in your appropriate area • Using equipment safely • Keeping spaces clean • Following game rules • Seeking teachers' help if required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following staff instructions • Wearing the correct school uniform • Being ambassadors of St Michael's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making sure your bag and belongings are in the correct space • Lining up quietly in your safety line when the bell goes • Keeping spaces clean and tidy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using soap and water appropriately • Having one person in each cubicle • Using the bathrooms for their intended purposes • Going with an appropriate partner
	Classroom Spaces	Outdoor Spaces	Community Spaces	Transition Spaces	Toilets
<i>Show Respect by:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking appropriately to others • Showing whole body listening • Using your manners • Raising your hand and waiting patiently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking appropriately to others • Taking care of all equipment • Using the quadrangle as a calm play space • Respecting and caring for the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using your manners • Keeping to the left when passing other pedestrians • Leaving spaces how you found them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being quiet and respectful • Keeping spaces clean and tidy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respecting others' privacy
	Classroom Spaces	Outdoor Spaces	Community Spaces	Transition Spaces	Toilets
<i>Help Others by:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting others to learn • Working together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping spaces clean and tidy • Seeking teachers' help if required • Being aware of the needs of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving spaces how you found them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modeling appropriate behaviour • Encouraging others to make positive choices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being a responsible toilet buddy • Waiting quietly and respectfully outside the toilet for your partner

Health information about students is sensitive information within the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) under the Privacy Act 1988. The School may request medical reports about students from time to time and may otherwise collect sensitive information about students and their families. The school may use a software application, such as School Wide Information System (SWIS), to collect, access and store information about student behaviour.

Specialist Programs

Specialist classes are provided as an integrated part of the curriculum in Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Science & Technology, Physical Education and Mandarin.

Student Representative Council (SRC)

Each term, students from Prep to Year Six are eligible for election to be their class representative on the Student Representative Council. The SRC meets regularly to discuss issues arising around the school and allows students the opportunity to make informed decisions about their school environment.

Sun Smart

During Term One and Four, it is compulsory to wear the school hat for all outdoor school activities. Sunscreen is available in each classroom.

Supporting Our Students

Support programs are also offered to cater for the wide range of students' needs:

- Literacy Intervention
- Individual Needs
- Pastoral Care/Counselling
- Maths Intervention

St Michael's also has access to the resources available at the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools (M.A.C.S.). These resources include general curriculum consultancy advice and personnel who provide professional assistance with educational programs for children with special needs such as speech pathology, educational psychology and individual needs assessment.

Psychology Services are available at St Michael's School for parents to access through **Advanced Psychology, 03 7002 8006**

Swimming

Swimming tuition is provided as a part of the Prep to Year Six Physical Education Curriculum and is compulsory for all students. Parents will be notified about when their children will be undertaking the program each year. The Year Three to Six Swimming program most often operates very early in term One, in preparation for our students to qualify for the District Competitions, which typically occur in late February / early March. Qualified instructors at the Ashburton YMCA conduct swimming lessons and parents are levied for these annually.

Testing Arrangements

One-to-one Literacy and Numeracy testing will happen prior to Term One commencement. The information gained from the tests will enable the teachers to begin planning your child's individual learning outcomes based on a sound knowledge of your child's areas of strength and challenge.

Toilets

Students are to be encouraged to go to the toilet during playtimes. Students must go to the toilets in pairs. Please encourage your child to request to go to the toilet when needed. At times, teachers may ask a child to

wait if there are already others from the class in the toilets at the same time. Please see your classroom teacher with any emergency needs when it comes to toileting.

Traffic and Parking

Please do not park in driveways or in non-parking zones when the flags are out. This is illegal and very dangerous for our students using the crossing. We expect parents to be excellent role models and use the crossing at all times.

Uniform

The Uniform Shop is run by parent volunteers. Parents will be notified via the School Newsletter regarding Uniform Shop opening times. Alternatively, orders can be made [online](#)

- **Hats** must be worn during Term One and Four as part of the school's Sun Smart Policy.
- **Art smocks** are required for Visual Art lessons.
- **St Michael's Library Bags** are required for book borrowing.

In 2024, the School Advisory Council, after consultation with the community, determined that sports uniform may be worn on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** and school uniform is to be worn on **Mondays and Fridays**. The main reason for this decision was to simplify matters for families as to when different age groups are required to wear the sports uniform. Physical Education lessons take place on these three days of the week so it was simpler to have all children in sports uniform on these days.

TO SEE AND SELECT UNIFORM PIECES FOR PURCHASE PLEASE GO TO OUR [ONLINE STORE HERE](#).

Please note:

- From time to time, the students will be permitted to wear "casual" clothes. Parents always receive notification in advance of these occasions.
- Ensure that names are clearly marked on uniform.
- **Runners** must only be worn with school sports uniform. Please keep them **for sports and PE sessions only**.
- Only studs or small sleeper-style earrings are suitable for school.

Wearing the correct school uniform reflects pride in our school and we ask for your cooperation in seeing that the students wear the school uniform.

Website

The school website is www.smashburton.catholic.edu.au and is updated on a regular basis.

The website contains enrolment information, annual report to community, and various policies and procedures.

Wet/Hot Day Program

A "Wet/Hot Day" is signalled by an announcement over the P.A. system. It is the responsibility of the teacher on duty in the Junior Playground to inform the Principal if rain starts to fall during a play period. During the wet day program, all students are to remain in the classroom and participate in indoor activities such as board games, activity sheets, drawings, play dough, etc.

Working With Children Check (WWCC)

All volunteers within the school must have an updated Working With Children Check card and the school must have a copy on file. WWCC forms are available from the local post office or applications can be made online. The cost of a WWCC is free for volunteers. The school receives notification of all volunteers who have lodged a successful WWCC application. Unless you are a parent, please notify the school of your incoming WWCC for filing purposes.

If you are cheerful and positive about your child's school then your child will feel the same.

~ ST MICHAEL'S CONTACT LIST ~

Principal

Annie Herbison

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Deputy Principal

Eloise Ellis

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Office Manager

Kathy Muhllechner

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School Officer

Louise Story

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Parents' & Friends' Auxiliary

office@smashburton.catholic.edu.au

Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson

John Whitehouse

jwhitehouse1@bigpond.com

Uniform Shop

uniformshop@smashburton.catholic.edu.au

Contact 9885 3105 for school enquiries.