Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

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Planning for 2027: Class Structures and Learning Opportunities

Dear Families,

As we continue the process of planning for the 2027 school year, I would like to provide our community with an update on our approach to class structures and the learning opportunities we aim to provide for every student at St Margaret's Primary School.

Our commitment to providing a high-quality Catholic education remains firmly at the heart of every decision we make. The recent Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) improvements to teacher salaries and conditions, which recognise the important work of our teachers, have also created significant additional financial pressures for schools across Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS).

As a result, schools are required to undertake careful and responsible planning as they prepare their 2027 budgets and make decisions about staffing, class structures and the allocation of resources.

What the 2027 class changes mean for our school

MACS has provided planning guidelines for schools to work towards an average class size of approximately 25 students across the school. Following a detailed review of our 2027 budget and class structures, we have made the decision to introduce one Year 5/6 multi-age classroom in 2027. This means for 2027 there will be two Year 5 classes, two Year 6 classes and one multi-age Year 5/6 class.

We understand that this news may feel unexpected and may prompt concerns about friendships, learning needs and preparation for secondary school. These concerns are understandable, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you.

We recognise that this change matters to the families involved. The new Year 5/6 classroom is the only change to class structures at St Margaret's in 2027.

All other classes will retain their existing year-level structures. This decision allows us to respond to the financial and staffing requirements we are working within while maintaining our commitment to providing high-quality learning opportunities for all students.

This change has been considered through a process of consultation and discussion, including consideration by our School Advisory Council, which has endorsed the proposed approach. We value this input and advice as we plan for our school's future and long-term sustainability.

We know that class arrangements matter deeply to children and families. Student wellbeing, friendships and individual learning needs will be carefully considered as classes are formed, with our children remaining at the centre of our considerations.

Supporting Year 5 and 6 students in a multi-age classroom

A multi-age classroom brings students from different year levels together to learn. This established educational model can provide a valuable learning environment through careful planning and effective teaching.

Students in Years 5 and 6 are developing greater maturity and independence. We believe a multi-age classroom is well suited to these year levels and, with the right support, can help students flourish.

Learning alongside another year level will give students opportunities to collaborate, learn from one another and develop leadership skills. They will also be supported to build independence and responsibility at their own pace.

Throughout this change, our teachers will continue to respond to each child's individual learning needs. They will use their knowledge of each child and ongoing assessment to provide support, further practice or greater challenge as needed. Importantly, Year 6 students will continue to receive the specific learning experiences, leadership opportunities and transition support that prepare them for secondary school and ensure their final year of primary school remains a memorable and rewarding one.

Working together through the transition

We will work closely with our teachers to ensure that the transition into the new Year 5/6 classroom is carefully planned, with clear communication and appropriate support for students and families.

We are proud of the commitment of our staff and the strength of our school community. The partnership between families, teachers and the parish remains an important part of what makes St Margaret's such a special place to learn, grow and belong.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership. We understand that this change may feel unsettling and that you may have questions about what it means for your child. We are committed to listening and communicating openly with you throughout the transition.

Please feel welcome to share your concerns or questions with me at john.rudd@smmaribyrnong.catholic.edu.au

With kindness,

John Rudd
Principal