



St Gabriel's SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION K-12

PROSPECTUS



Welcome to St Gabriel's School

Nurturing Independence. Transforming Lives.

From the Principal

I am thrilled to welcome you to St Gabriel's School, where every child is valued, supported and celebrated for their unique strengths and talents.

With a history of more than 100 years, our School has proudly partnered with families to provide a learning environment specifically tailored to each child's individual needs, abilities and aspirations. Guided by our values of independence, partnership, respect, faith and perseverance, we are a community that works together to support one another always placing our students at the heart of everything we do.

At St Gabriel's, we believe that every child has the ability to shine. We are committed to providing the environment and resources that empower our students to succeed, whilst fostering a safe and welcoming space where they can explore their interests and build confidence and independence.



Our holistic approach, supported by Catholic values, prepares our students for fulfilling lives beyond the classroom. Student wellbeing guides how we teach, support and walk alongside each student on their learning journey.

Our dedicated and passionate staff work in partnership with families and allied health professionals to bring out the best in every student. Together, we create a nurturing and connected community where students feel valued and empowered to develop the skills they need for life beyond the St Gabriel's gates.

A prospectus cannot hope to capture the true spirit of a place, so I invite you to visit us and tour the School to experience St Gabriel's for yourself.

I look forward to welcoming you to our community.



David Cook
Principal

Our Story

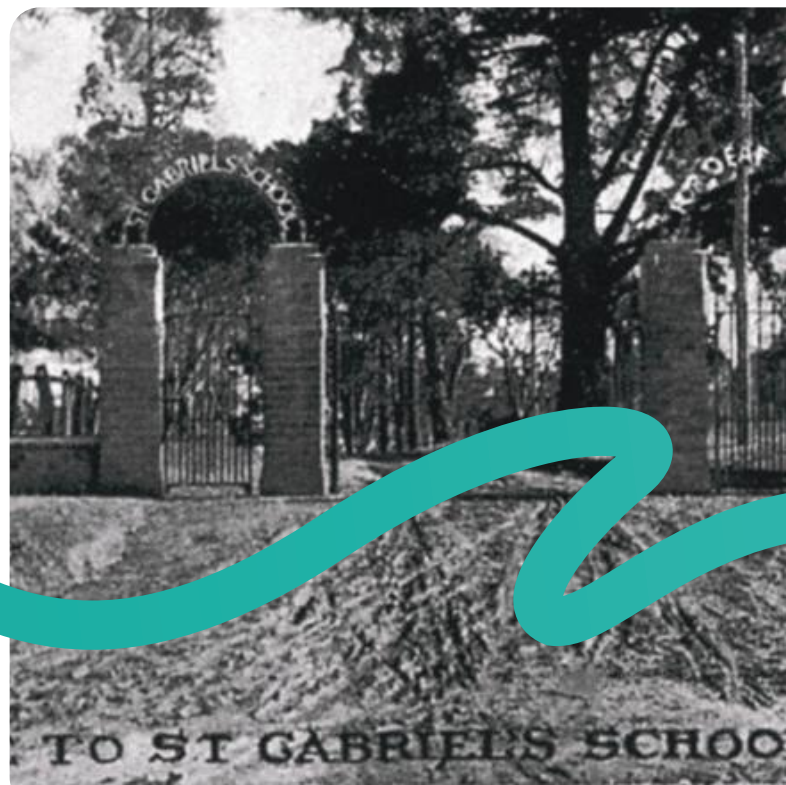
Founded in 1922 by the Christian Brothers, St Gabriel's School has supported children with diverse learning needs for more than a century. Beginning as a small boarding school for boys who were deaf, located in the historic Southleigh homestead, the School quickly grew, evolving in response to the changing needs of its students and families.

Over the decades, St Gabriel's transitioned to a co-educational day school, introduced innovative integration programs and expanded its focus to better support students with hearing impairment. As understanding of inclusive education grew, so too did the School's vision.

In 2010, St Gabriel's broadened its enrolment, providing individualised learning for students with a mild to moderate intellectual disability, as well as additional needs, including autism, hearing and vision impairment and other disabilities. Since then, the School has experienced significant growth, expanding to become a K–12 learning community with purpose-built facilities and a strong focus on wellbeing, inclusion and personalised learning.

St Gabriel's School is proud to be part of the Edmund Rice Education Australia Flexible Schools Network, an organisation that has the shared vision of supporting students in need, as they become empowered to live full and hope-filled lives.

While the School has evolved over more than 100 years, its mission remains unchanged — Nurturing Independence and Transforming Lives.





Leaders in Special Education

St Gabriel's School is an independent K–12 school providing individualised learning for students with a mild to moderate intellectual disability, as well as additional needs, including autism, hearing and vision impairment and other disabilities.

Our Vision:

Enrich the hearts and minds of young people with special needs for active participation in their community.

Our Mission:

To nurture independence in our students and establish skills to enable enriched lives, including post-school employment and community participation.

“ While St Gabriel's has evolved over more than 100 years, its mission remains unchanged — Nurturing Independence. Transforming Lives. ”

Learning





Primary School

At St Gabriel's School, our students follow the NESAs (National Education Standards Authority) K-6 Primary Curriculum, which is tailored to meet their individual needs and learning characteristics.

We prioritise the development of foundational literacy skills in our youngest students. This ensures all students receive structured and evidence-based instruction in phonics, reading, handwriting and comprehension. The MultiLit program serves as the foundation for our K-6 English programs.

For students requiring additional support we provide small group learning (2-4 students) through our Literacy Hub. For students requiring more intensive support, targeted intervention programs are delivered in collaboration with our Allied Health team, ensuring a coordinated and individualised approach that supports each child's learning needs.

Our Mathematics program focuses on building confidence and understanding in foundational mathematical concepts, while supporting students to apply their learning to everyday, real-world situations.

In addition to our targeted literacy and numeracy programs, our Primary School curriculum encompasses subjects in Science and Technology, History, Geography, Religion, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) and Creative Arts.

Our Religion and faith-based programs are grounded in Catholic values and focus on nurturing each student's spiritual growth, sense of belonging and understanding of themselves, others and the world around them.

Primary School learning spaces are designed to support interaction, creativity and confidence. Through hands-on-learning, teachers encourage students to ask questions, create and work collaboratively with their peers. Students' individual educational needs are supported through the development and implementation of Personalised Plans that outline goals for academic learning, social development and life skills.

Primary classrooms provide a supportive learning environment where students are encouraged to flourish and grow. Each class consists of between 8 and 10 students and is staffed by a highly qualified Teacher and Learning Support Officer. Our teachers participate in ongoing professional development to ensure they use current pedagogy and evidence-based practices that support high-quality outcomes for all students.

Secondary School

Secondary School begins to prepare students for success after their time at St Gabriel's.

At St Gabriel's, our Secondary School follows the NESAs (NSW Education Standards Authority) Life Skills curriculum. This syllabus provides students with an intellectual disability with accessible courses that develop skills in literacy, numeracy, self-determination, independence and employability.

Students are assisted to identify their strengths and explore areas of special interest while maintaining a solid academic foundation across all disciplines. Within small classes and a supportive community, students develop confidence in expressing themselves.

Our learning spaces support students as they develop independence, confidence and shared responsibility for learning. Practical experiences enable students to engage thoughtfully, work alongside others and apply their ideas in meaningful ways. Personalised Plans are developed and implemented to support each student's academic learning, social development and life skills.

St Gabriel's works in partnership with external allied health professionals, inviting them to visit the School to collaborate with staff and support each student's growth and development.

Students engage in a five period day, in addition to Homeroom at the commencement of each day. Each period is approximately 60 minutes in duration and caters for all students' abilities.

Secondary classes are structured to provide a highly supportive learning environment where students can flourish and grow. Each class has a maximum of 12 students and is staffed by a highly qualified Teacher and Learning Support Officer, enabling an individualised approach to learning.



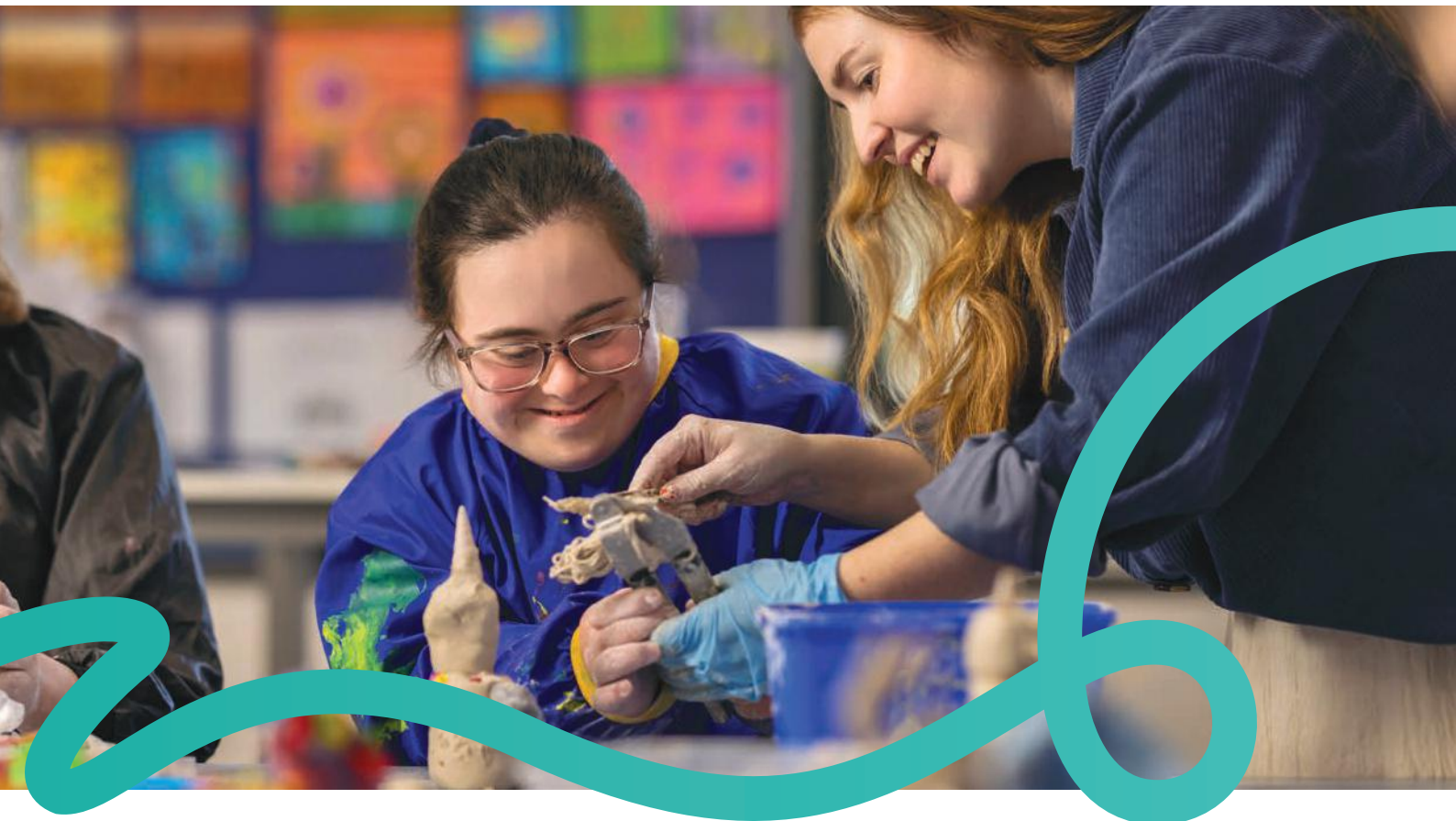
Year 7 and 8 Subjects

In Year 7 and 8, students build strong foundations for learning, strengthening their skills and knowledge in a broad and balanced curriculum.

Core learning areas include:

- Religion
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)
- Languages
- Technology
- Music
- Art

Students engage in an outdoor education program through a two-night camp.



Year 9 and 10 Subjects

Year 9 and 10 students continue to build upon the core learning areas, as well as exploring their strengths and areas of special interest through a choice of elective options.

Mandatory Subjects

- Religion
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

Choice of two Electives

- Music
- Art
- Food Technology
- Work Education

Students engage in an outdoor education program through a two-night camp.

Year 11 and 12 Subjects

In Year 11 and 12, students extend their core learning and explore individual interests through a range of elective choices.

Mandatory Subjects

- Religion
- English
- Mathematics
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)
- Work and the Community

Choice of Two Electives

- Music
- Art
- Geography
- Certificate II in Hospitality (Food and Beverage) — TVET
- Certificate III in Retail — TVET
- EVET courses — a range of EVET courses may be offered subject to availability and suitability

Students engage in an outdoor education program through a two-night camp.

“ We believe children learn best when they feel safe, supported, and appropriately challenged. ”





Wellbeing for Learning

We are committed to developing and maintaining a positive learning environment that supports the learning and wellbeing of all students. We believe children learn best when they feel safe, supported and appropriately challenged. It is essential that every student feels known, valued and cared for as an individual.

We recognise that when students feel connected to one another, their families and the wider community, they are safer, happier and develop a stronger sense of purpose and meaning in their lives. These connections empower students to grow into the best versions of themselves.

Wellbeing is fundamental to learning. Strong partnerships with families, carers and the wider community are central to supporting each student's social, emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing throughout their learning journey.

Our Wellbeing for Learning framework is designed to both support and challenge students to develop their social and emotional capabilities. Through this framework, students build the knowledge and skills needed to become active, confident and contributing members of their future communities.

Students are authentically recognised for demonstrating positive learning behaviours, caring for others and maintaining a safe and respectful environment. Our highly qualified staff deliver targeted social and emotional learning programs that foster resilience, emotional understanding and positive relationships, supporting students both at school and at home.

Allied Health

At St Gabriel's School, we have an in-house therapy team to support students in overcoming barriers to accessing and actively engaging in all aspects of the curriculum.

The services provided do not aim to replace existing therapists who are already working with students externally. Instead, the focus of this team is to facilitate success at school and support students' wellbeing, independence and ability to learn. The team consists of a full-time Occupational Therapist, Speech Pathologist, Psychologist and an Allied Health Assistant. As part of the wider School support team, St Gabriel's also offers vision supports, including a Vision Support Teacher and a Vision Support Officer.

Our Allied Health team completes much of its work alongside teaching staff as part of students' regular school day. This includes supporting students through the creation of resources, such as visuals, social stories and adapting classwork using Braille and large print. In addition, they provide regular professional development to staff to further supplement their expertise in special education.

Universal supports that benefit all students form an important part of the work performed by our Allied Health team. This is achieved through close collaboration with the School Leadership team to implement school-wide, evidence-based programs that support student growth. These include programs such as Targeting Handwriting, Colourful Semantics, Zones of Regulation, SoSafe and MultiLit.

A range of small group programs, including LEGO® Therapy groups, Secret Agent Society, fussy eating groups, communication groups, social clubs and vision impairment clubs are run by the Allied

Health team. These groups are designed to meet a variety of needs, with a focus on developing independence and supporting learning.

In addition to support within the school setting, the team provides further opportunities for the wider school community. This includes offering information sessions for parents. Session topics have included social skills, sensory processing, understanding anxiety, handwriting, mealtime supports, literacy and managing behaviour. The team has also facilitated school holiday groups focusing on areas such as social skills, transition to high school, mealtime skills and community access.

At St Gabriel's, we recognise the importance of consistency across settings. While the School-based team does not replace external therapy services, we value the vital support provided by external therapists. With parent consent, the Allied Health team can collaborate with external providers to ensure consistency across all environments.



Purpose-built Facilities

Our spacious campus, completed in 2024, has been thoughtfully designed to support the diverse learning, wellbeing and development needs of our students.

The campus features dedicated Primary and Secondary wings, each with purpose-built classrooms, specialist learning spaces and contemporary facilities. These flexible environments allow students to engage, explore and progress at their own pace.

A balance of indoor and outdoor learning areas encourages movement, creativity

and connection, while carefully considered design features promote safety, accessibility and inclusion. Set within calm, welcoming surrounds, our campus reflects our commitment to creating a nurturing environment where every student feels secure, supported and inspired to reach their potential.



“ A balance of indoor and outdoor learning areas encourages movement, creativity and connection. ”

Next Steps

St Gabriel's School accepts enrolments from Kindergarten to Year 12.

Main entry points are Kindergarten and Year 7 however, places may become available from time to time in other year levels, subject to vacancies and suitability. Families are encouraged to contact the School to discuss availability and their child's individual needs.

In addition to our Open Days in March, School Tours are offered throughout the year, and our Registrar is happy to work with families to arrange a suitable time to visit.

Steps to Enrolling

Step 1: Enrolment Enquiry

Visit our website stgabriels.nsw.edu.au/how-to-enrol and complete the online Enrolment Enquiry form.

Step 2: Discover St Gabriel's School

Visit the School on Open Day in March to hear from the School Principal and Leadership Team, and/or contact our Registrar to book a School Tour.

Step 3: Enrolment Application

If your child meets the enrolment criteria, you will be sent a link to submit a formal Enrolment Application. The application fee is \$110 (which is non-refundable). The following documentation is required to ensure students meet the enrolment criteria:

- Psychometric Assessment (a current WISC; Stanford Binet; WPPSI-IV; or Griffiths assessment no older than two years)
- Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder if applicable (DSM-5 original diagnosis). Please ensure the Level of Support diagnosed is no older than two years.
- Birth Certificate
- Most recent school report and IEP/PP (if applicable)

- OT/Speech Assessments within past two years
- Medical reports (if applicable)
- Immunisation History Statement
- Other relevant assessments (where applicable).

Step 4: Interview

Applications will be reviewed and an interview will be scheduled, followed by a preschool/school observation visit.

Step 5: Enrolment Offer and Acceptance

Successful applicants will be notified at the beginning of July.

Contact Details

For further information about enrolling your child at St Gabriel's School, please contact our Registrar:

Phone: (02) 9634 2367

Email: enrol@stgabriels.nsw.edu.au

Apply for Enrolment:

Please visit stgabriels.nsw.edu.au



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