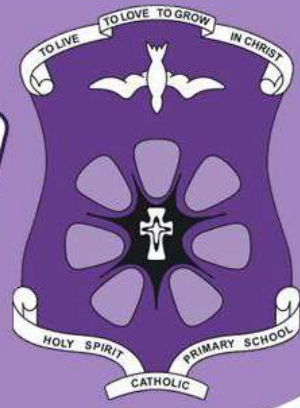


NEWSLETTER

"TO LIVE, TO LOVE, TO GROW IN CHRIST"



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Beatitudes for the Making Jesus Real (MJR) Teacher

Blessed are the teachers who inspire in their students a positive attitude to others, to life and to themselves, for they pass on the actions, words, and teachings of Jesus.

Blessed are the teachers who use and teach W.E.S.T for they will experience the greatest joy that these four actions will bring.

Blessed are the teachers who foster and nurture the Gospel Values of compassion and justice, for they will create smiles, laughter, and joy.

Blessed are the teachers who understand, use, and teach the power of T.E.A.M for they will involve many in creating wonderful solutions.

Blessed are the teachers who work on mental strength, a sense of humour, the one percenter, winning the hard ball, and not taking the soft option, for they will encourage resilience in students.

Blessed are the teachers who look for, 'The Spirit of Jesus' in all they do and see, for they will – by identifying these moments – create even more beautiful opportunities.

And finally, Blessed are the teachers who live Jesus in their hearts, for they will lead by example – encouraging their students and inspiring their colleagues and school community forever.

Amen

Dear Families,

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge the incredible work our teachers do each and every day. Teaching is a profession that demands patience, creativity, compassion, and unwavering dedication, and one that can make a lasting difference in the lives of our students. From inspiring curiosity in the classroom to providing encouragement and support beyond it, our teachers go above and beyond to ensure every child feels valued and empowered to succeed.

As parents and families, your partnership plays a vital role in this shared mission. Together, we are helping our students grow, learn, and thrive.

Recently we celebrated World Teachers' Day to acknowledge this incredible work carried out by the heart of our school - our amazing teachers!

Please watch the [short video](#) where our students shared their thanks and appreciation.

Two weeks ago, we welcomed Malakai Rahman who joined our Year 5/6 class. Malakai and her family have relocated from St Anthony's Catholic School in Launceston. The family have shared with me their words of thanks in how well they have been welcomed into our school community.

Results from our recent *Tell Them From Me* survey also highlighted that we are recognised as a *welcoming community* for both new and current members. It's wonderful to see this being lived out among us all. Thank you, Holy Spirit!

In our last newsletter, I shared the key themes and feedback from the survey. I've included these again below and will continue to do so to keep you updated on our progress. Please note that our staff, School Board, and leadership team are also working through additional areas of focus.

Technology and Digital Learning

- Computer Lab & Wi-Fi Improvements We have met with Catholic Education NT (CENT) and Area 9 to begin the process of upgrading our computer lab and improving Wi-Fi access, scheduled for 2026.
- New Staff Devices All teachers will receive new desktop computers suited to their professional needs — this process is already underway.
- Digital Literacy Focus We have requested support from CENT to enhance staff development in this area.

Communication and Class Placement

- Families have requested to know their child's class teacher before the school year begins. Due to enrolments continuing through January, class structures can only be finalised once school resumes. We understand this is not ideal, but appreciate your understanding as we accommodate new families moving to Darwin.

Student Facilities

- Construction of new student toilets is currently underway and will be completed by the end of November.

Student Learning and Support

- We are working closely with CENT to strengthen extension and enrichment opportunities for students.
- Students shared positive feedback about PE, Indonesian, and The Arts — thank you to Abby Caldwell, Jo Masters, Putu Wartu, and Leah Ergos for their wonderful work.
- There is also interest in expanding Science offerings, which we are exploring as a potential STEAM focus for 2026.

School Culture and Environment

- It was wonderful to hear feedback that our school is welcoming and inclusive for new students and families. We will continue to build on this strength.
- Students have asked for a review of playground equipment, including more swings — we'll explore this in future planning.
- We recognise the increasing workload on staff and are working with CENT to identify ways to better support teachers.

Communication & Canteen

- We are simplifying communication by reducing the number of platforms we use — by next year, we aim to consolidate through Toddle.
- Families have suggested more canteen options on Fridays — please share your ideas with us!

A big thank you to everyone for your support with our swimming program last week — and of course to Abby Caldwell for coordinating! From all reports it was a fantastic day for everyone.

We're now looking forward to our Whole School Production – A Christmas Star, which will take place on Thursday 27th November at the AANT Centre (formerly Darwin Entertainment Centre). Please check in with your child's classroom teacher for details. To purchase tickets please visit the [AANT Website](https://www.aant.org.au)—if your child is performing they do not need a ticket.

For the evening performance, please note that COL and After School Care will close at 4:00pm on this day. This will allow families time to get organised and give staff time to prepare for the night. A special thank you to Leah Ergos, who has coordinated this entire event — it's sure to be a great night!

Our teachers continue to finalise assessment and data in readiness of your child's academic report which will be sent to you all prior to the end of our school year.

For student achievement, we have a five-point scale which is endorsed by Catholic Education Northern Territory. When identifying a five-point scale, student behaviour, effort, and academic achievement/support is considered. The five-point scale is identified below:

- **Working Well Above Expected Standard**
 - ◊ Evidence of learning demonstrating outstanding achievement at current year level
- **Working Above Expected Standard**
 - ◊ Evidence of learning demonstrating high achievement at current year level
- **Working At Expected Standard**
 - ◊ Evidence of learning demonstrating sound achievement at current year level
- **Working Below Expected Standard**
 - ◊ Evidence of learning demonstrating limited achievement at current year level
- **Working Well Below Expected Standard**
 - ◊ Evidence of learning demonstrating very limited achievement at current year level
- **Not Applicable**
 - ◊ An achievement grade is not recorded at this time

Upcoming Changes to Social Media Access for Under 16s

From Wednesday 10th December, young people under 16 will no longer be able to create or hold accounts on certain social media platforms. This is not a ban, but a delay in access.

Social media can expose young people to features that encourage excessive use and to content that may negatively affect wellbeing. This change provides families with valuable time to help build digital literacy and resilience before stepping into the online world.

To help families prepare, the eSafety Commissioner has created a Social Media Age Restrictions Hub with practical tools and advice.

Three simple ways to get ready:

- Read eSafety's FAQs for parents and carers to understand what is changing and why.
- Register for an eSafety Live webinar to learn more.
- Use the Get Ready Guide and conversation starters to prepare your child.

For more information, visit [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au) or refer to the flyer include in the newsletter on page 8

There are occasions where we receive reports of alleged bullying. I assure you we take this very seriously and follow our positive behaviours policy and procedures when following up. Please go to pages 9 and 10 of the newsletter of follow the links to view the two posters that are on display in all learning areas across the school:

[Keep Holy Spirit Bully-Free](#)

[Kindness is key](#)

Our classroom teachers and staff work closely with our children and have regular check-ins to see how they are feeling and if they have any concerns. There are occasions where we will conduct a confidential anti-bullying audit to gauge how children are feeling in general. We are proud of our students and their behaviours each day; however we know there are occasions where reminders and meetings may need to take place.

As we move through the final part of the school year, please take note of the **key dates** below. We encourage families to stay connected through our school communication platforms and check in with your child’s classroom teacher for any updates or additional events.

November

- ⇒ **14** – Defence Family Gathering (1:30pm)
- ⇒ **27** – Whole School Production – *The Christmas Star*
- ⇒ **28** – Final Awards Assembly

December

- ⇒ **3** – Academic Reports Emailed to Families
- ⇒ **10** – Year 6 Graduation Mass and Activities
- ⇒ **11** – Last Day of School for Students

Paula Sellars
Mrs Paula Sellars
Principal

Please do not park on the yellow lines outside the front office entrance.
This area is monitored and you may be fined.





Jubilee Prayer of Hope

God, our loving Father

In this Jubilee year, you remind us of our call to love creation.

Help us to work together to replant, repair and renew.

Guide us on our journey as pilgrims of hope.

Amen

Mini Vinnies Christmas Appeal

This is on again this year. We have started already here at school calling on your donations. This appeal is to assist those families in our community who may be experiencing hardship at this time. At our final mass for the year we invite St Vincent de Paul to join us to accept these important donations that will make Christmas for so many a little better.

Youth Ministers

Recently our Youth Ministers participated in a Mini Vinnies day at Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School. We joined student leaders from our other Catholic schools across Darwin to share experiences, learn new ideas and explore the important work of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Remembrance Day Service

Thank you Mrs Crimmings and Miss Heidi, along with our defence children and families for your presentation at this special service yesterday. As a defence school, we take great pride in our participation at these services.

Children's Mass

We have one remaining Children's Mass scheduled for Sunday 30th November at 9:30am mass. It would be lovely to have our children and families present for this. Please come and see me for more details as required.

Sacramental Dates 2026

I met with Fr Dave recently and he has provided dates for 2026.

Confirmation - Sunday 14 June, 2026

Reconciliation - Thursday 10 September, 2026

First Holy Communion - Sunday 13 September, 2026

Australian Catholics Magazine

Please do not forget about this free subscription. This is published quarterly and is a great resource offering reflections, stories, and updates from the Church in Australia and beyond, helping families feel connected to the wider Catholic community.

Log-in details: <https://www.australiancatholics.com.au/acmagazine>

Username: parents@nt.catholic.edu.au

Password: acparents

Mrs Sellars

SCHOOL TERM CALENDAR – 2025

TERM 4	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	ASSEMBLY
<u>Week 6</u> November 33 rd Sunday Ordinary Time	10	11 Remembrance Day Service from 10:45am	12	13	14 Awards Assembly Defence Family Gathering @ 1:30pm	Year 1/2 Room 2 Room 4 Room 6
<u>Week 7</u> November 34 th Sunday Ordinary Time	17 Year 6 Captains 2026 speeches and voting from 8:30am	18	19 Step Up 1.30 -2.30pm Year 3/4 girls sports day with Abby	20 Board Meeting @ 4:45pm	21	No Friday Assembly
	Advent - 1st Week					
<u>Week 8</u> November/December 1 st Sunday Advent	24	25 Step Up 1.30 -2.30pm	26	27 Whole School production at AANT Centre	28 Final Awards Assembly Last Day of <i>All About Reading</i>	Transition Room 8 Room 9
	Advent - 2nd Week					
<u>Week 9</u> December 2 nd Sunday Advent	1 End of Year Mass, awards & 2026 Student Leadership St Vincent de Paul Appeal presentation	2	3 Academic Reports go home	4 Transition Graduation at 8:30am Step up Day	5 All About Reading Graduation Gymnastics Gala	No Friday Assembly
	Advent - 3rd Week					
<u>Week 10</u> December 3 rd Sunday Advent	8	9 O’Loughlin Open Day (Yr. 6) – 8:30-3:00pm	10 Year 6 Graduation Mass at 8:30am (whole school)	11 Casuarina Aquatic & Leisure Centre (T-5) Students’ final day	12 NO SCHOOL VACATION CARE	Year 6 Student Leaders 2026 (Monday only)
	Advent - 4th Week					

MONDAY



3 Get outside and observe the changes in nature around you

TUESDAY



4 Sign up to join a new course, activity or online community

WEDNESDAY



5 Change your normal routine today and notice how you feel

THURSDAY



6 Try out a new way of being physically active

FRIDAY



7 Be creative. Cook, draw, write, paint, make or inspire

SATURDAY

1 Make a list of new things you want to do this month

SUNDAY

2 Respond to a difficult situation in a different way

10 Be curious. Learn about a new topic or an inspiring idea

11 Choose a different route and see what you notice on the way

12 Find out something new about someone you care about

13 Do something playful outdoors - walk, run, explore, relax

14 Find a new way to help or support a cause you care about

15 Build on new ideas by thinking "Yes, and what if..."

16 Look at life through someone else's eyes and see their perspective

17 Try a new way to practice self-care and be kind to yourself

18 Connect with someone from a different generation

19 Broaden your perspective: read a different paper, magazine or site

20 Make a meal using a recipe or ingredient you've not tried before

21 Learn a new skill from a friend or share one of yours with them

22 Find a new way to tell someone you appreciate them

23 Set aside a regular time to pursue an activity you love

24 Share with a friend something helpful you learned recently

25 Use one of your strengths in a new or creative way

26 Try out a different radio station or new TV show

27 Join a friend doing their hobby and find out why they love it

28 Discover your artistic side. Design a friendly greeting card

29 Enjoy new music today. Play, sing, dance or listen

30 Look for new reasons to be hopeful, even in tough times



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is very important for all our children.

Every day at school counts!

Please refer to the table below as an indicator of how repeated absences can have an impact on student learning.

	Your child's attendance is above 95% They are likely to be a 'Star Performer' as well as an excellent attendee. They will almost certainly achieve the best grades for their ability and have real opportunity in further education, or in the world of work.
	Your child's attendance is 90 – 94% 'GREEN for Go' for good attendance, they are likely to achieve grades that will give them real opportunities to continue their studies, or in the world of work.
10 days missed = 2 weeks absence	
	Your child's attendance is 85 – 89% 'AMBER – Take care' as students will be missing up to 20 days each year and this will make it very difficult for them to achieve their best.
	Your child's attendance is 80 – 84% 'RED light – Be alert' as students are missing so much school that it will be very difficult for them to keep in touch with lessons or with work.
	Your child's attendance is below 80% 'AT RISK – Immediate Action Needed' as students are missing so much time from school that it will be almost impossible for them to keep in touch with lessons or work.

Social media age restrictions

What you need to know

From 10 December 2025 Australian young people under 16 will not be allowed to create or hold accounts on certain social media platforms.

Delaying account access allows more time for young people to build digital literacy and greater resilience.

How will it work?

Under the law, the responsibility lies with the age-restricted platforms to find and deactivate existing accounts held by under-16s and to prevent under-16s from creating new accounts.

There are no penalties for under-16s who access an age-restricted social media platform, or for their parents or carers.

Social media platforms

The age restrictions are likely to apply to **Facebook, Instagram, Kick, Reddit, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, X, YouTube** as well as other platforms. [See the latest list.](#)

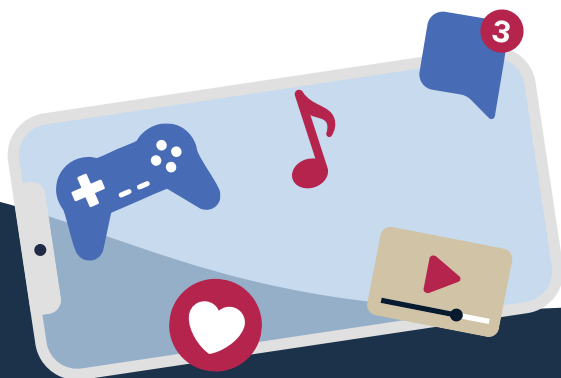
Most standalone gaming and messaging apps, as well as many services that support health and education, will not be affected by the new law.

Information and resources

Visit eSafety's social media age restrictions hub to find out what's happening and how to prepare.

The hub includes practical guidance for parents and carers and young people, including get-ready guides and actions plans to prepare for the change.

Updated 05/11/25





HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHILD SAFE GUARDING OFFICERS

Principal



Miss Heidi



Mrs. Sellars



Deputy Principal

I know I can go to Mrs. Sellars, and Miss Heidi if...

I need help.

I am worried about my safety.

I am worried about a friend.

Keep Holy Spirit Bully-Free!

Kindness is Key

PAUSE



PAUSE
BEFORE YOU ACT

EMPATHISE



THINK ABOUT HOW
OTHERS WOULD FEEL

PLAY



ACT IN **KINDNESS**
PLAY IN PEACE

**BULLYING IS WHEN SOMEONE REPEATEDLY
HURTS, TEASES, OR PICKS ON ANOTHER
PERSON ON PURPOSE.**



Together, **We Stop Bullying!**

PAUSE



PAUSE
BEFORE YOU ACT

EMPATHISE



THINK ABOUT HOW
OTHERS WOULD FEEL

PLAY



ACT IN **KINDNESS**
PLAY IN PEACE

Kindness is key, let's all agree: keep Holy Spirit, Bully-Free!



Kindness is Key

PAUSE



PAUSE
BEFORE YOU ACT

EMPATHISE



THINK ABOUT HOW
OTHERS WOULD FEEL

PLAY



ACT IN **KINDNESS**
PLAY IN PEACE



Holy Spirit is Bully-Free!