



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE
CASINO

Enrolment Policy

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“The Catholic School is the principle educational arm of Catholic families, parishes and the wider church... It is there to assist parents and parishes in their educational, evangelical and catechetical mission as well as to help the wider community in its educational and civic service” (Catholic School at a Crossroads Pastoral Letter of the Bishops of NSW and the ACT, 2007).

RATIONALE

Parish schools were established as places of educational excellence which proclaim the faith, in the mission entrusted to the Church by our Lord Jesus Christ. They form part of a tradition of Catholic education provided by religious and lay teachers in the Diocese of Lismore for 150 years. They also fulfil parents’ rights to choose schooling for their children which reflects their own faith, values, beliefs and hopes.

Catholic schools have a particular responsibility to provide a Catholic religious education to children baptised in the Catholic faith and to support parents in honouring the commitments that they made on behalf of their children at baptism.

The Catholic school is also “open to all who want to share its educational and faith goals inspired by Christian principles” (Congregatio de Institutione Catholica 2009). Most importantly, there is a special place in parish schools for those with the greatest need, especially in areas of fewer educational options or lower socio economic circumstances. Efforts should be made to encourage such enrolments, within the vision of the Bishop of Lismore for the poor.

AIMS

Education in the Diocese of Lismore commits to the following aims:

- Supporting the living and transmission of the Catholic faith at all levels of parish school life with enthusiasm and a sense of vocation.
- Nurturing each individual student’s growth in faith and unique potential and gifts. This occurs to enable a ‘fullness of life’ through Jesus Christ and his teaching (John 10:10).
- Offering excellence in educational opportunities founded on the mission of Jesus Christ articulated in Catholic Education in the Diocese of Lismore: Foundational Values for Catholic Identity and Mission.
- Fostering strong parent partnerships and engagement.
- Creating Christ centred and pastorally caring communities who respect and nurture each other, the wider society and the world, according to the teachings of Jesus.

In such aims parish schools value ‘who we are and what we do’: parents are invited to enrol in the parish school in full knowledge of the expectations around the Catholic Faith and the teachings, beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church. In essence, the parish remains at the ‘centre’ of parish school.

ENROLMENT AT SMCC

St Mary's Catholic College is a Catholic school in which Christian values and attitudes are lived, promoted and held in high regard. Equal opportunity is provided for all students.

Enrolment of a child at St Mary's Catholic College requires that parents,

- i. accept the importance of religious practice
- ii. commit to participation in the educational processes of a Catholic school
- iii. commit to support College-based activities
- iv. support College regulations and procedures
- v. pay College fees and other fees unless arrangements have been made with the Principal.

Parents wishing to enrol children at the College will be interviewed by either the Principal, Assistant Principal or delegate before enrolment is completed.

Places will be offered at the discretion of the Principal and the Parish Priest, using the following guidelines:

- i. children with at least one Catholic parent
- ii. siblings of non-Catholic families already enrolled in a Catholic school
- iii. children from families who are actively involved in another Christian community
- iv. any other child at the discretion of the Principal in consultation with the Parish Priest.

All decisions of acceptance for enrolment shall be at the discretion of the Principal in consultation with the Parish Priest.