



St Pius X School PARENT HANDBOOK



Contents

St Pius X School - Our Story	2
Vision, Mission & Values	4
St Pius X Parish	5
St Pius X School	6
Our Staff	6
Administrative Procedures & Guidelines	7
School Office Hours	7
Student Supervision Before and After School	7
Attendance and Punctuality	7
Lesson and Bell Times	7
Parking and Traffic Flow	8
Child Protection	8
Uniform – Active Wear	9
Personal Property	9
Lost Property	9
Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices	9
Canteen	10
Photography/Digital Images/Recordings	10
Bicycles at School	10
Emergencies	10
Parents and Community	11
Parents Onsite and Volunteering	11
Parents and Friends Committee	11
Community Events	11
School Board	12
Student Health and First Aid	13
Student Illness and First Aid	13
Student Health and Medication	13
Anaphylaxis and Allergies/Food Sensitivities	14
UV Protection	14
Home and School Partnership	15
Home-School Communication	15
Assessment, Interviewing and Reporting	15
School Newsletter	16

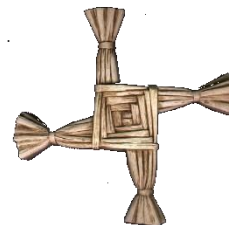
Tips for Parents in Supporting their Child with Social or Peer Based Issues at School	16
\Extra-Curricula Activities	18
Competitive Sport	18
Instrumental Lessons	18
School Choir	18
Other Extra Curricula opportunities	18
Finance and School Fees	19
Camps and Excursions	19
School Fees	19
Religious Education	20
Sacramental Program	20
Student Learning & Wellbeing	20
Behaviour Education – Restorative Practices	20
Learning Support Programs	21
School Chaplain	21
English as an Additional Language	21
Homework	22
Library	22
ICT (Information Communication Technology)	22
Australian Curriculum	22

St Pius X School - Our Story



Brigidine Prayer

"We will be faithful to our Catholic heritage
Welcome all people, especially the most vulnerable
Celebrate all that is good with joy and gratitude
Engender a love of learning, hope and a sense of purpose,
Image and practise justice and service"



Our History

It was early in the 1960's when Fr JP McCann OMI (Oblates of Mary Immaculate) approached the Brigidine Sisters to take charge of a primary school being built in Adelaide. On meeting Mother Pius, the Provincial of the Brigidine Order in Melbourne, it was with great strength and kindness that she accepted this challenge. A community of sisters would move to South Australia for the sole purpose of opening a Catholic primary school in Windsor Gardens. On March 4th, 1962 St Pius X Primary School was officially opened with 200 students from Kindergarten to Year Four. Mother Roch led the community, with Mothers Vincent, Bosco, Giuseppe and Catherine showing their support and encouragement. St Pius X Primary School has been built on a foundation of dreams, determination and prayers.

St Pius X School Now

Today as you enter the Brigidine Building the words 'Strength and Kindness' boldly adorn the foyer. These words encapsulate not only the vision of our founding Priests and Nuns but all of those who are part of our school community. The motto sets before us the virtues of strength and gentleness, so characteristic of St Brigid. We maintain a close partnership with our Parish of St Pius X at Dernancourt. Through experiences such as weekday Mass, Family Masses and the Sacramental Program, our students and families have the opportunity to share in Parish life. Our School embraces diversity and values collaboration, justice, resilience, compassion, inclusion, and respectful relationships. We aim to partner together with our families to provide students with high quality learning like St Eugene de Mazenod did a long time ago. Our school Hall bears his name, and we welcome all families and friends with a generous heart, showing them that we care and acknowledge their presence in our community.

Our School Logo

The badge of the Congregation of St Brigid, which is now used by Brigidine Schools throughout the world, was originally designed by the Irish College of Heraldry. The Cross in the top section of the badge is that of St Brigid, and the large cross of diamonds is taken from the badge of Bishop Daniel Delaney, who founded the Brigidine Sisters. The Cross of St Brigid is based on the simple cross of reeds which tradition says St Brigid used when teaching the truths of the Catholic faith. The small lamp in the centre of the badge represents the light of Christian faith and light of learning.

Saint Pius X's Story

Pope Pius X is perhaps best remembered for his encouragement of the frequent reception of Holy Communion, especially by children. The second of 10 children in a poor Italian family, Joseph Sarto became

Pius X at age 68. He was one of the 20th century's greatest popes. Ever mindful of his humble origin, Pope Pius stated, "I was born poor, I lived poor, I will die poor." He was embarrassed by some of the pomp of the papal court. "Look how they have dressed me up," he said in tears to an old friend. To another, "It is a penance to be forced to accept all these practices. They lead me around surrounded by soldiers like Jesus when he was seized in Gethsemani". Interested in politics, Pope Pius encouraged Italian Catholics to become more politically involved. One of his first papal acts was to end the supposed right of governments to interfere by veto in papal elections — a practice that reduced the freedom of the 1903 conclave which had elected him. In 1905, when France renounced its agreement with the Holy See and threatened confiscation of Church property if governmental control of Church affairs were not granted, Pius X courageously rejected the demand. While he did not author a famous social encyclical as his predecessor had done, he denounced the ill treatment of indigenous peoples on the plantations of Peru, sent a relief commission to Messina after an earthquake, and sheltered refugees at his own expense. On the 11th anniversary of his election as pope, Europe was plunged into World War I. Pius had foreseen it, but it killed him. "This is the last affliction the Lord will visit on me. I would gladly give my life to save my poor children from this ghastly scourge." He died a few weeks after the war began and was canonized in 1954.

Saint Eugene de Mazenod's Story

Born into a noble family in Aix (Provence), Saint Eugene spent part of his childhood in Italy because of the French Revolution. Ordained a priest at Amiens in 1811, he soon organized missionaries to go to rural parts of Provence, instructing the people whose religious training had been disrupted for many years by the French Revolution and its aftermath. Eugene began the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1816, obtaining papal approval for them 10 years later. From rural preaching, they soon moved into running seminaries to improve the quality of the clergy. Their first foreign mission was in Canada in 1841; soon they were in Africa, Asia, Australia, and Latin America. In 1851, Eugene followed his uncle as archbishop of Marseilles and died on May 21st, 1861, leaving the testament 'among yourselves, charity, charity, charity'.

He focused his energies on Church renewal and reform while vigorously defending the Church's right to spread the Good News. His congregation has grown to become one of the largest in the Church, serving in over 50 countries, especially in northern and western Canada. Many of its members have become missionary bishops. At Eugene's canonization in 1995, Pope John Paul II praised his vision, perseverance, and conformity to God's will.

Saint Brigid

Brigid of Kildare is a patroness of those who have a care for the earth, for justice and equality, for peace and reconciliation. She is a model for a contemplative life. A great resurgence of interest in all aspects of our Celtic heritage is leading many individuals and groups to rediscover – and draw inspiration from – the lives of the early Irish saints. St. Brigid, the patroness of Ireland, is emerging as one whose life has relevance and inspiration, especially as we try to face the issues that confront our world at this time. When we look at the life of Brigid and at some of these issues, we can see more clearly why she continues to be relevant today.

Vision, Mission & Values

Vision Statement

In Strength and Kindness St Pius X community embraces diversity, nurtures relationships, values the environment and strives for excellence in development of faith, teaching and learning.



Mission Statement

Inspired by our Catholic faith and in partnership with families and our parish, St Pius X School is a community which creates high quality learning for all.

Values Statement

Honouring our Brigidine and Oblate traditions we value:

- ♥ Respectful relationships
- ♥ Resilience
- ♥ Justice
- ♥ Inclusion
- ♥ Collaboration
- ♥ Compassion



Our Commitment to each learner at St Pius X School

We are committed to knowing you deeply. We value you as a capable, competent learner. We will support your active engagement in the learning process. We will work in partnership with you and your family. We are committed to high expectations for your learning progress, wellbeing and achievements. You matter to us.

St Pius X Parish

St Pius X Church

Avoca Street, Dernancourt 5075

Parish Office: 8261 2428

Parish Staff

Parish Priest: Fr. John Sebastian -parishpriest@stpiusxdernancourt.com.au

Mass Times

Weekend Masses:

Saturday Vigil	6:30pm
Sunday	9:30am & 5:30pm

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday	9:15am
Wednesday	9:15am
Thursday	9:15am
Friday	9:15am

Reconciliation: Saturday 11:30am - 12noon

Baptisms: Baptisms are celebrated every Saturday at 10:30am

St Pius X School

St Pius X School - 8 Windsor Grove, Windsor Gardens 5087

Contact Details

School

Phone: 8266 9400
To report a student absence: 8266 9495
Email: info@stpiusx.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.stpiusx.catholic.edu.au

Out of School Hours Care

Phone: 8369 1489
Email: oshc@stpiusx.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.spxoshc.org.au

Our Staff

Ashley Keane - Principal



Jamie Deverson - Deputy Principal



Rita Campbell - Assistant Principal, Religious Identity & Mission



Sue Dixon - Finance Manager



Jessica Harmer - Principal's Assistant & Registrar



Cassandra Figg - Reception and Community Contact



Anita McDonnell - Student Services



Administrative Procedures & Guidelines

School Office Hours

The School Office is open from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Teaching staff are in attendance from 8:25am until 3:30pm.

Student Supervision- Before and After School

Before School: Students are supervised in the yard before school from 8:20 am. Children can access the school via the front gates on Windsor Grove, through the pedestrian entrances on Hillburn Avenue and Acton Avenue or Parents may use the Kiss and Drop which is located on Hillburn Avenue next to the DeMazenod Hall.

After School: The yard and Kiss and Drop area is supervised after school until 3:30pm. After this time children will be sent to the school's OSHC service and parents will be charged accordingly.

Attendance and Punctuality

Being on time and organised has a good calming effect and sets your child up to have a good day - late-coming also causes disruption to class routine. At 8:40am, music is played which indicates that children can start moving to their classroom ready for an 8:45am start. Please note that the **school gates are locked at 8:45am** and any children who arrive after this time must come through the front office and have their attendance recorded.

Schools have a legal requirement to accurately record children's attendance at school. If your child is going to be away due to illness or family reasons then we ask that parents notify the school of your child's absence via one of the following ways -

- **Call** the dedicated number - 8266 9495
- **Email** - absences@stpiusx.catholic.edu.au
- **SZAPP** – please use the online form

Students who will be absent from school for more than five consecutive days will need to complete an Holiday Exemption Form available on the SZapp.

Lesson and Bell Times

In order to avoid congestion in the school yard and provide ample space for all children to play, we have split playtimes into two groups - Reception to Year 2 and Years 3-6 – please refer to the table below for details.

Reception to Year 2	
8:45 – 10:50	Lessons
10:50 – 11:20	Recess time
11:20 – 1:00	Lessons
1:00 – 1:30	Lunch time
1:30 – 3:00	Lessons
3:00	Home time

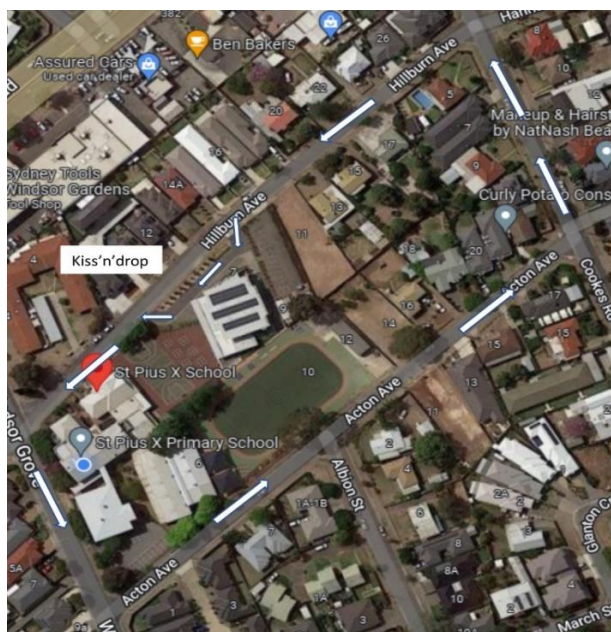
Years 3 to 6	
8:45 – 11:20	Lessons
11:20 – 11:50	Recess time
11:50 – 1:30	Lessons
1:30 – 2:00	Lunch time
2:00 – 3:00	Lessons
3:00	Home time

Children are given some time before their play time to eat their lunch. The amount of time provided depends on the age of the children, with the Junior Primary children usually being given more time than older children.

Parking and Traffic Flow

There are a small number of car parks in the staff car parking area for parent use. Parents are asked to adhere to the signage in the carparks and refrain from parking in spaces that are reserved for staff or disabled persons. Parents parking in the carpark are asked to walk their child to and from their cars. Parking is available in the surrounding streets. Please adhere to parking signage and be respectful of our neighbours by not obstructing driveways.

Due to the narrow streets and in order to assist with the flow of traffic around the school at drop off and pick up time, the school encourages parents to travel in an anti-clockwise direction around the school.



Child Protection

St Pius X School takes protecting the safety and wellbeing of our students very seriously – school gates are locked from 8:45am each morning and opened at 2:45pm each afternoon. Access to the school is

through the Front Office at all other times. If you require the front gate to be opened for pram/wheelchair access please use the intercom located next to the gate.

Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds during school hours unless under direct supervision of a parent or guardian.

Designated toilets are set aside for adult use. Adults are requested **not to use** the student toilets at anytime. Parents who need toilets whilst onsite are asked to come to the front office where they can be directed to an appropriate toilet.

Uniform – Active Wear

Students at St Pius X School wear an active wear uniform every day, allowing children to freely engage in a range of physical activities. This also means parents don't need to remember which days children wear particular uniforms. Our uniform may be purchased online or in person at UMS, located at 296-306 Nelson Road, Para Vista . Online orders will be delivered to the school once a week and distributed to families via their eldest child. School hats may be purchased from Reception.

Students must have access to school hats all year round. **School hats are compulsory in Terms 1 and 4 and whenever the UV rating is above 4** – further information about this requirement is available in the UV Protection section on page 16.

Personal Property

Please clearly label all belongings including clothing, stationery and lunch boxes/drink bottles with your child's full name. We encourage parents to check their child's clothing at the beginning of each term in order to ensure that the labels can still be clearly read.

Lost Property

Lost property is to be taken to the Front Office. Articles will be kept for a Term. Labelled items will be returned to their rightful owner. Parents and students are welcome to check the lost property collection for their items.

Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices

Please note children should not have mobile phones or electronic devices in their possession during the school day. If you would like your child to have a mobile phone at school for safety reasons, it must be handed to the classroom teacher upon arrival at school. The school will **not** be held responsible for loss or damage to mobile phones or electronic devices. Please note that use of a mobile phone by a student, which is not in line with the school's policies, may result in the child being banned from bringing their mobile phone to school.

Canteen

The school canteen is open every day and menus are available on the school website. Please use the QKR app to order lunches, (download from the App Store or Google Play). Traditional 'lunch bag orders' are still available but QKR is the preferred method of ordering from the Canteen.

Photography/Digital Images/Recordings

While it is important that you have the opportunity to celebrate your child's participation in school life it is equally important that you are mindful of privacy issues around the taking of or publication of any photographs or images of other children. **It is permissible to take a photo/digital image/recording of your own child but not of others.** Please do not copy any images for other people, please do not publish images for any form of commercial use and do not display photos or images on any form of social media without the express permission of any person in the photograph. Your cooperation with this is appreciated.

Bicycles at School

Bike racks are provided near the Grounds/Maintenance and PE sheds, adjacent to the Nature Playground. Students are welcome to ride their bikes to school, however the school does not take responsibility for personal property and we recommend that children lock their bikes. By law, and for safety reasons, students must wear a helmet. Students are to walk their bicycles whilst on school grounds.

Emergencies

St Pius X School has plans in place for dealing with fires and emergencies. The school undertakes periodic emergency drills so that all staff and students understand what is expected of them in an emergency. In the event of an emergency (eg fire, earthquake, flood, etc) the school will care for children until they are collected by a parent/caregiver. In the event of an emergency at the school, the school will make every attempt to inform parents in a timely manner when it is both safe and practical to do so.

Parents and Community

Parents Onsite and Volunteering

We warmly welcome and encourage parents to be involved in our school community. Parents and families are welcome to and come onto the school grounds, both before and after school, to drop-off and collect their children.

We also value and encourage parents, grandparents and other community members to volunteer at our school. There are a number of ways in which you can volunteer including assisting in a classroom, supporting staff on school excursions, supporting staff with school-based tasks such as covering books, cleaning, coaching a sporting team, or joining the Parents and Friends Committee. If you wish to find out more about volunteering at our school please contact the Front Office and speak to us.

Parents and Friends Committee

As a school community, we benefit significantly from the contribution of parents and family members in a voluntary capacity. Our volunteers are a source of enrichment for the whole community. The Parents and Friends Committee is the co-ordinating body for parent activities within the school. It works towards assisting parents as the primary and most important educators of their children and attempts to establish warm and open relationships within the community. It is the principal body for raising funds and building a strong sense of community. Please contact Cassandra Figg in the front office for more information about our Parents & Friends Committee.

OSHC (Out of School Hours Care)

Our OSHC program is a high-quality program which is operated by the school for students and families who are enrolled at St Pius X School. The service can be contacted on 8369 1489 and offers the following components:

- * Before School Care 7:00am – 8:30am (breakfast included until 8:10am)
- * After School Care 3:00pm – 6:15pm (afternoon snack included)
- * Vacation Care 7:30am – 6:00pm (breakfast and afternoon snack included)
- * Student Free Days 7:00am – 6:15pm (breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack included)

Vacation Care booking forms and programs are issued three weeks before the end of each Term.

Community Events

Each year, St Pius X School holds a number regular of community events. These include our Mother's and Father's Day breakfast, school disco, Book Week parade and a biannual whole school concert.

School Board

The School Board has a very important responsibility for overseeing the effective running and governance of St Pius X school. The School Board is a group of parents who work with the school's leadership team and the Parish Priest in order to set future directions for the school and consider areas such as school policies and procedures, the financial management of the school, pastoral care of students and families, community engagement and the longer term building and maintenance programs. Each year, nominations are called for the School Board and any parent at the school who is able to express an interest in being a part of this very important group.

Student Health and First Aid

Student Illness and First Aid

If your child is unwell, we request that they are not sent to school, in the interests of the health and wellbeing of our community. We ask that parents contact the school to notify us of your child's absence.

There will be times when children come to school and start to feel unwell during the course of the school day or have an accident at school which requires first aid attention. In these situations, teachers may refer a child to the school office so that first aid can be administered. Parents will receive a phone call or email about their child based on the nature of their injury. If necessary, parents will be contacted and may be asked to collect their child from school.

In the event of a serious accident, school staff may call for an ambulance. If this occurs, the parent, or nominated person, will also be contacted and asked to come to school or meet their child at the hospital (if ambulance staff deem that taking the child to hospital is the most appropriate course of action).

If a child is ill or has been involved in an accident and the parents or another person listed on your child's records cannot be contacted, school staff will use their discretion in making decisions about the care provided to your child until such a time that contact is made.

In the event of a head injury, staff will contact a parent to advise them of the incident. Parents will decide what action to take, however, the school recommends a consultation with your child's GP should a head injury occur.

Please note that the school's ambulance insurance policy does not cover pre-existing medical conditions/illnesses and parents will be responsible for the costs.

Student Health and Medication

There are times when children require the administration of medication at school. A child who requires medication to be administered at school will be required to have a Health and Medication Action Plan, signed by their GP and parents. Without **written** permission, we cannot administer medication. All medication is to be 'in date'. Students are not to bring Panadol or other medication to school to keep in their bags.

If children need short term medication for a particular medical issue, then parents are encouraged to time the administration of this medication so it occurs outside of school hours. If this is not possible and it needs to be given during school hours, **the first dose must always be given at home.**

Any medication required to be taken at school should be given to the Student Services at the beginning of the school day. The medication must have a pharmacy label that displays the name of the medicine, dosage to be given and timing of dosages and be in its original container.

Anaphylaxis and Allergies/Food Sensitivities

Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. It must be treated as a medical emergency, requiring immediate treatment and urgent medical attention. St Pius X School has a 'Nut Aware Policy' and we ask you to consider the foods you send to school and refrain from packing foods with nuts and/or sesame seeds (including peanut butter) to help prevent severe allergic reactions.

UV Protection

Students are encouraged to protect themselves from the harmful effects of the sun and are required to wear a school approved hat during recess, lunch and sports lessons in Terms 1 and 4 and on days when the UV rating is above 4. Therefore, students are asked to keep a school hat in their bags throughout the year.

Sunscreen is provided by the school for students to apply during the day. Parents may also provide sunscreen for their children if they wish. It is advisable for children to apply sunscreen prior to coming to school on days when significant sun exposure will occur earlier in the day (eg sporting carnivals, morning PE lessons). The protection of children's skin from harmful UV rays is a team effort between parents and the school.

Home and School Partnership

Home-School Communication

We believe that a positive relationship between the school and home is vital for the overall success and happiness of your child at St Pius X School. We provide a number of ways in which parents can communicate with staff and also keep up to date with the school and class events. These communication channels are as follows:

Seesaw and Schoolzine (SZapp)

The school uses two Apps to communicate with parents and caregivers – Seesaw and SZapp. Parents are encouraged to download and subscribe to these apps and then regularly check them for updates and news. Further information is outlined below -

Seesaw: At the beginning of the year your child’s class teacher will invite you to sign up to their class account as they use Seesaw to communicate information regarding class events and children’s learning.

SZapp: The SZapp is used by administration staff to distribute information about events, procedures, the school’s newsletter etc. Excursion details and permission forms are also sent via this app. Please refer to the set-up guide accompanying this Handbook.

Email

Parents are able to communicate with the school or their child’s class teacher via email. Please be aware that school staff will endeavour to respond to emails in a timely manner (usually within 24 – 48 hours).

Phone calls and face to face meetings

Parents are always welcome and encouraged to speak to staff in person or over the phone.

Paper based communication

There will be times when paper copies of correspondence need to be distributed and this will be via your eldest child. You are encouraged to regularly check your child’s bag for paper-based communication. The correspondence is usually followed by a post on Seesaw or SZapp.

Assessment, Interviewing and Reporting

At the commencement of the year, parents are able to ‘Book a Chat’ with their child’s new teacher. This enables teachers to learn more about each child from parents and caregivers. Three-Way Conversations (parent, child and teacher) are offered later in year. These, along with written reports, are used to inform parents of their child’s progress. There will be two written reports which meet all Commonwealth reporting requirements – Semester 1 Report in Week 10 of Term Two and Semester 2 Report in Week 8 of Term Four. Interviews may be requested by parents, teacher or child at any time during the school year.

School Newsletter

The school's Newsletter is published 3 times per term (generally Weeks, 2, 5 and 8) on the school's website (www.stpiusx.catholic.edu.au) and via SZapp (please download to your mobile device). The School's Newsletter keeps families up to date with important information about the school.

Working Together To Deal With Issues, Concerns Or Grievances

We are a team working together – please don't hesitate to approach us with questions or concerns.

There may be times when your child has an issue at school or when you are concerned about a school related issue. When this is the case then we recommend that parents follow the guidelines below

1. If approaching the school about a concern, in the first instance it is best to approach the staff member who is most directly involved with your concern.
2. If the issue is a minor issue, it may be resolved very quickly by a quick informal chat with the teacher before or after school or via an email or phone call.
3. If this issue is more complex, then it is best to contact the school to make an appointment so that the appropriate time and forum can be devoted to dealing with the issue. Contact can be made by email, phone, using the Seesaw app or by coming into the school in person.
4. If, after speaking to a staff member who is most directly able to assist with your concern, you are still not satisfied that the issue has been resolved then please make a time to come and see a member of the leadership team.
5. If you are not satisfied after meeting with the School Leadership team, you should book another appointment with the leadership team and if this does not resolve the issue then you may contact the Catholic Education Office on 8301 6600 and they will direct you to the person who may be able to assist you.

It is important when dealing with issues or conflicts that parents remain calm and respectful and remember we want the same thing for your child. We will listen and work with you to resolve issues and we ask that you do the same for us. Partnership is crucial.

Tips for Parents in Supporting their Child with Social or Peer Based Issues at School

All children make mistakes and there are times when children experience social issues at school. How adults respond to these situations makes a difference to how effectively the issues are resolved. There may be times when your child comes home upset or annoyed about an issue that occurred in the classroom or school yard with another student. When this happens, we offer the parents the following advice:

- Listen to your child and remain calm.
- Ask probing questions – remember there are 2 sides to every story and children can sometimes be faulty observers and faulty reporters.

- Discuss the issue with your child and then decide whether the issue is something you can help your child to deal with independently or whether you need to support them by speaking with a staff member.
- Don't automatically assume that a school staff member already knows about the issue.
- Remember when dealing with any issues, that it is important to remain calm and look to deal with the issue at hand, rather than blame people. Keep in mind that your child's version of what has happened may not always match the actual reality of what has occurred, so be prepared to listen and discuss the issue in a respectful manner.
- Avoid automatically labelling any form of social conflict as bullying as this dis-empowers your child.
- Never approach another child or parent about an issue. Please go through the correct channels.
- You are your child's advocate. You are always welcome to come and discuss issues with us. If in doubt make contact with a school staff member to discuss your concerns.
- Remember no child is perfect and your child's interactions and conduct at school may be different to those at home.
- If coming into school to meet, be open and prepared to listen to other accounts of the issue.

Extra-Curricula Activities

Competitive Sport

All children in Years 2-6 are given opportunities to participate in the sport of their choice. A variety of sporting choices are offered each year either as an after school sports activity or as a sports carnival. These are under constant review depending upon student interest and available adult assistance, but have included such activities as athletics, basketball, cross-country, football, netball, soccer, swimming. All competitive sports are played in line with the National Junior Sports Policy. Expression of interest forms are distributed annually.

Instrumental Lessons

Students wanting to extend their musical education can enrol in the school's Instrumental Program. Peripatetic teachers provide private or group tuition in a range of instruments including Voice and Speech & Drama. Students respond positively to 1:1 tuition that nurtures their musical ability. Research has shown that learning an instrument not only improves musical knowledge and skill but it also improves academic performance, memory, reasoning, time management and verbal skills.

School Choir

Choir offers students from Year 5 and 6 an opportunity to pursue their passion as a musician, to refine their singing skills, to learn how to harmonise and enjoy the beautiful sound that voices can make. The Choir performs at the Catholic Schools' Music Festival in September of each year and supports school celebrations including masses and assemblies.

Other Extra Curricula opportunities

In addition to the above extra curricula opportunities, children may also be involved in other areas of interest and community service around the school, including but not limited to:

- Environmental and sustainability groups
- Student leadership programs
- Social justice groups
- Students of High Intellectual Potential program (selection criteria apply)
- Children's University

Finance and School Fees

Camps and Excursions

All classes from Reception to Year 6 participate in class excursions/incursions that align with the curriculum. Excursions are school trips to significant places and incursions engage children in an experience at school. The costs of these activities are covered by the yearly School Fees.

School camps provide students in Year's 3 to 6 with the opportunity to experience learning in an outdoor 'away from home' environment, placing emphasis on independence and cooperative learning skills that form part of the curriculum at various year levels. Every effort is made to keep the camp experiences at an affordable cost and parents are invoiced for the camps separately at the beginning of the school year.

School Fees

Annual school fees are divided into payments over three periods but arrangements can be made for more frequent payment by instalments, including regular weekly, fortnightly or monthly Direct Debits. If fees are paid in full, (ie full years fees before the end of February), a 5% discount will be given.

Parents who qualify for School Card or who are experiencing financial hardship are invited to apply for fee concession. All applications for fee concession and support are to be made to the Principal and will be held in strictest confidence. Please contact Sue Dixon, the Business Manager, for any enquiries.

Student Learning & Wellbeing

Religious Education

Religious Education supports the integration of faith, life and culture through two curriculum programs known as Crossways and Made in the Image of God which are used in all South Australian Catholic Schools. Further information regarding Catholic Identity and Religious Education can be obtained from Rita Campbell our Assistant Principal, Religious Identity and Mission (APRIM).

Sacramental Program

Parents are the first and foremost educators of their child's faith development. Our Sacramental Program supports families in the ongoing catechesis of their child. In Years 3 and 4, the Religious Education curriculum prepares students to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist. In accordance with the Adelaide Archdiocese Initiation Policy, children are able to receive Sacraments when considered 'ready', as deemed by their parents, Parish Priest and teachers.

Currently at St Pius X School we formally present children for Reconciliation in Year 3, Confirmation and First Eucharist in Year 4. As part of the Dernancourt Parish we celebrate these occasions during Parish Masses and at various times throughout the school year. Enrolment forms for the Sacramental Program are distributed annually.

Behaviour Education – Restorative Practices

At St Pius X School, we use a restorative approach to behaviour development. Restorative justice is a way of looking at justice that focuses on repairing the harm done to people and relationships rather relying on punishment as the sole way of addressing behavioural issues. Put simply, restorative justice is a process advocating that the people most effective at finding a solution to a problem are the people who are most directly impacted.

Restorative approaches create opportunities for those involved in conflict to work together to understand, clarify and resolve the situation, working together towards repairing harm with the guidance of an adult.

The main reason for using restorative practices is that people are more likely to make positive changes when those in authority do things with them, rather than to, or for them. Its use in schools has been shown to reduce misbehaviour, bullying, violence and improve the overall climate for learning. A restorative approach brings all parties face-to-face to talk through issues and helps children to talk about their feelings and see how their actions have impacted others. The Restorative approach actively involves children in directly repairing, or restoring, the damage his/her actions have caused. The aim is to teach children accountability to their victims and to others affected by their actions. Responsibility is placed back on the student.

Even though restorative practices is our preferred method for dealing with behaviour issues, there are circumstances when this approach is not effective or appropriate. In these circumstances, school staff may implement other methods of dealing with behaviour indiscretions which may include the issuing of consequences or the loss of a privilege.

At St Pius X School we endeavour to build a positive school culture whereby staff and parents work together to educate children in developing respectful behaviours that support a harmonious school environment.

Learning Support Programs

All teachers differentiate their classroom practice to cater for different learning abilities, thus forming the first level of support for children with additional learning needs. There are some circumstances where children require extra support, beyond the differentiated practices within the classroom. In these circumstances the following support mechanisms are used to support children:

- * Education Support Officers work both within and outside the classroom to provide extra support to children with their learning.
- * MiniLit and MacqLit is an extensive and comprehensive Literacy program aimed to support children from Years 1- 6 in four, one-hour, daily sessions per week. Parents will be informed if staff believe their child would benefit from this support.
- * Children with learning difficulties are offered support in class and/or outside class through a Personalised Plan for Learning shaped by their teacher, the Inclusive Education Coordinator and parents. Parents are invited to meetings with key school staff to discuss and review their child's Personalised Learning Program.
- * Allied professional such as Speech Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, other medical professionals and organisations are able to come onsite to work with students and staff to support student learning. If you would like to discuss a therapist coming onsite to support your child's learning, then please don't hesitate to contact the Deputy Principal.

School Chaplain

The School Chaplain's role is to support the pastoral care and wellbeing of our students, their families and staff. The School Chaplain provides a reference point for addressing social, religious, cultural and spiritual issues and offers students and families support, and/or appropriate referrals, in difficult situations and during life's challenges.

The Chaplain supports and encourages key Christian values and embraces the Catholic Ethos.

English as an Additional Language

At St Pius X School we value and respect our students who learn English as an Additional Language (EALD). As teachers we recognise the importance of explicit teaching to help these students with their English language development. Students are supported by experienced classroom teachers and additional English language lessons.

In the Early Years, support is provided in small groups with an initial focus on students developing their oral language. As students' progress through school, support is provided in each year level, as needed. This approach ensures that our students learn to speak, read and write in English and successfully engage with the school curriculum.

Homework

Homework reinforces and supports the school learning program. Homework should focus on practising skills, not new learning or project work. Teachers will outline their approach at the beginning of each year.

Library

The School offers a Library service for children to borrow books. Children have the opportunity to borrow books each week to read for leisure and support them with their learning.

ICT (Information Communication Technology)

Information Communication Technologies is an important part of society and is integrated into our teaching and learning programs. Every child in our school has access to an Apple device (iPad or MacBook) to support their learning. These devices remain the property of the school and children and parents must sign an ICT user agreement before students can be provided access.

Australian Curriculum

St Pius X School teaches using the Australian Curriculum. Children are taught and assessed in the following areas:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences) – includes, Geography, History and Civic & Citizenship
- L.O.T.E (Languages other than English)
- Health and Physical Education
- The Arts (Visual Arts, Performing Arts and Music)
- Technology (Digital and Design technology)

Further information about each these subject areas can be found on the ACARA website.

Specialist Lessons

The children engage in 3 specialist lessons per week. The specialist lessons offered at St Pius X School are Music, Italian and Physical Education.