

# SCHOOL BROCHURE



## ST MARTIN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, Davidson

### WELCOME



St Martin's is a vibrant, co-educational Catholic school for children from Kindergarten to Year 6. At St Martin's we offer a wonderful, small school community where each and every child is known and cared for as an individual. Our children thrive in a learning community where their achievements are acknowledged and celebrated.

We strive for excellence in learning and have achieved outstanding student academic and sporting achievements over the years. We are fortunate to be located in a beautiful, peaceful bushland setting in Davidson and are afforded with an extensive playground area for our students.

Our school motto, "Strength and Gentleness" is lived each day in our relationships with each other – a constant reminder for children to be strong in character and gentle in their approach.

Our school is an exciting and interesting place to be a learner. Our dedicated staff work hard to cater for the individual needs of children, by providing valuable teaching and learning opportunities, interesting challenges, positive support and encouraging guidance each day. We seek to involve families in all aspects of school life.

Above all St Martin's Catholic School offers a caring and connected community. We are committed to giving your child the best academic education that is guided by Gospel values and accompanied by a warm and nurturing environment. Together we can teach your child to think, to succeed and to be prepared for their next steps in life.

Helen Leigh  
Principal

### SCHOOL COMMUNITY

St Martin de Porres is a patron saint of social justice and the school community plays a strong role in developing social justice understanding and initiatives within the school and wider community. Examples of these include working with St Vincent de Paul on the annual Mission Project and Christmas Hampers to Coolah, NSW, Project Compassion and other Catholic Mission and Caritas priorities. Parents support families in need with meals that are available in the "Meal help" freezer or delivered to homes as needed.

The school enjoys a very positive profile within the local and wider community due to its reputation for excellence in teaching and learning, strong support from families and a commitment to the pastoral care of all students. The school community strongly supports the mission and vision of the school with the school motto and learning beliefs contributing to this.

We are fortunate to have a connected and engaged parent community, involved in many areas of the school. There are a number of parent committees; Parents and Friends (P&F) meetings are well attended and very supportive of the school priorities. The school has a School Advisory Team which actively assists the school. Events are held during the year for both social and fundraising occasions and include "M Factor – St Martin's has talent", trivia night, Welcome BBQ, Father's Day BBQ, Mother's Day breakfast and more.

# 'INSPIRE' PROJECT – LEARNING “BEYOND THE WALLS”



St Martin's is one of the few primary schools selected to participate in the 'INSPIRE' Project. Our focus is on Learning 'Beyond the Walls' which has its basis in research by Professor Ron Richhart (Harvard Project Zero) and aims at developing capabilities for future success.

As well as the daily uninterrupted English and Mathematics learning, our students learn to think and solve problems in a collaborative way and by considering all possibilities beyond the immediate walls of the classroom. This sometimes includes learning outside or inviting experts to the school to share their knowledge and experience in a particular area with the children. This project also goes beyond the walls “virtually” by utilising Google Classroom and technology.

With St Martin's offering a small school community, we are able to provide greater teaching individualisation to our students, supporting all needs.



## CULTURES OF THINKING

At St Martin's, we believe that effective teaching takes more than good planning and instruction. It also requires attention to the culture of the classroom.

Our teachers strive to create cultures of thinking in their classrooms by using a variety of methods, including making time for thinking, developing and using a language of thinking, making the classroom environment rich with scaffolds for thinking, and making their own thinking visible.



## WHY CATHOLIC EDUCATION?

In addition to a high quality education, Catholic schools provide a caring and nurturing environment for each individual to thrive. Teachers within the Catholic education system are highly qualified and professional, catering to the diverse learning needs of our students.

Our Catholic school offers a comprehensive curriculum. A strong discipline policy is enforced and expectations of achievement and conduct are high. With a clear focus on the development of each individual, a broad curriculum caters for a wide range of interests and abilities. Catholic schools support families in their role as the first educators in faith and actively encourage parents to become involved in their children's education.

## HOW IS POSITIVE STUDENT BEHAVIOUR AND ANTI-BULLYING SUPPORTED?

Catholic schools expect high standards of student behaviour and at St Martin's we have policies relating to behaviour management and anti-bullying which are guided by the Diocese of Broken Bay Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Framework for Learning. These policies and the associated programs are based firmly on Catholic values and focus on building quality relationships and fostering resilience. St Martin's is committed to creating a safe and supportive learning environment.

Being a small school environment puts St Martin's at an advantage when it comes to preventing bullying and detecting any early signs. We implement proactive strategies and our staff team are well aware and highly trained in ways to detect, assess and deal with bullying. We are a small and nurturing school community and we pride ourselves in every teacher knowing and connecting with each and every student in our school.





## TEACHING AND LEARNING

St Martin's Catholic School provides a balanced curriculum approved by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA). We are supported by the Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Broken Bay, which exists to educate and form young people in Catholic Discipleship offering the experiences of following Jesus as members of Catholic community.

Key Learning Areas include:

- Religious Education (half hour per day)
- English (2 hour block per day)
- Mathematics (1 hour block per day)
- Science and Technology
- Human Society in the Environment – History and Geography
- Creative Arts – Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
- Italian Language program provided by Co As It (45 minutes per week)

Children are fortunate to have Specialist Teachers for Italian, Creative Arts, Physical Education (including Gymnastics) and Library each week.

## PASTORAL CARE AND WELLBEING

St Martin's is a "KidsMatter" school with a strong culture of developing children in Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). Gospel values are lived and positive relationships, respect and responsibility are fostered. The school follows the Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) and Restorative Justice approaches to assist children to learn about behaviour, respectful relationships and "making it right" with those they have affected by their behaviour.

At the core of Pastoral Care at St Martin's Catholic School are the following programs:

- Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) including bullying prevention
- Seasons for Growth Program
- Buddy Program
- Senior Leadership Ministries
- Restorative Justice
- Peer Groups
- Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) tracking of each child

## CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

St Martin's Catholic School offers a large range of co-curricular activities for students wishing to extend their learning in various ways. These include:

- Chess Club
- School Band Program
- Individual instrument tuition
- Debating and interschool debating competitions
- Swimming and Beach Awareness Programs
- Public Speaking
- Yoga
- School Choir
- Instrumental Ensembles
- "Tech Room" and Technology Lunchtime Club
- Environment Club
- Gala Sports Days
- Mandarin Language Program
- Coaching Clinics: Rugby, Basketball, Tennis, Soccer and Hockey

As part of the sports program, students are involved in annual Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. Students who excel in various winter and summer sports are also invited to represent the school at interschool, diocesan, inter-diocesan and state level.



# BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Catholic Care provides a valuable service to parents with “Out of school hours care” (OSHC) available from 7:00 am until 6:00 pm which is essential for the many families who work in the city. This is available on a casual basis and there is no need to lock in for a full term. This is run in the school hall adjacent to the school. Government rebates are available.

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

At St Martin's, we are proud of our Leadership development program that gives all senior students the opportunity to develop leadership skills. We do not have school captains but instead have every child in Year 5 and 6 involved in a “Leadership Ministry”. Every child has an opportunity to lead the school assembly (Communication Ministry), lead the school in aerobics and sports (Sports Ministry), assist school-wide with technology (Technology Ministry), library (Library Ministry), Pastoral Care, Mission, Welcome and Environment.

With the two years of leadership training and mentoring our Year 6 children are equipped and confident to take on leadership roles as they move into their high school and post school years.

# KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 6

When your child arrives at St Martin's in Kindergarten it's the very beginning of their journey through primary schooling. From their first day at St Martin's we have a “Buddy” program to look after our Kindergarten children, where they are paired with a Year 6 child who helps them with their day to day settling into school. We also let our Kindergarten children know about our “friendship bench” – a designated bench in the school yard where they can go if they can't find their friends or if they are feeling lonely or in need of a friend, and one of our senior students will be sure to come and reassure them and connect them back with their friends.



## St Martin's Catholic Primary School

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