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The Heart of the Matter

At St Michael's, we teach with heart. Our identity statement speaks beautifully, inspiring us all to greatness.

The St Michael's Catholic Primary School Community follows the Josephite tradition of being a learning and supportive environment that challenges the landscapes of our hearts and minds.

As a small school community, the staff at St Michael's strongly believes in working together. Our communication skills mean that we are all working towards the best for the kids. With the average class ratio of 10 students to 1 teacher, our students receive support where they need it. Teaching at the point of need is incredibly important to us as educators. We are well supported as teaching staff also, receiving cutting edge professional development from the Sandhurst Catholic Education Office.

Given our small school community, our kids are also skilled communicators and with our guidance, have learnt to identify when someone within our community needs extra assistance. With a strong culture of treating others how they wish to be treated, our students are nurturing and caring. With an emphasis on teaching expected behavior's, our kids know what to expect from us each day, giving them confidence to shine.

We educate our kids to understand that everyone is an individual and as such, has different needs within the educational environment. Children are able to identify within themselves what helps them to learn and be successful.

As a Principal in a Catholic school, I often come across some misconceptions about what we do and who we are. Here are some common questions asked.

Do my children have to be Catholic to attend St Michael's?

We accept enrolments from everyone. There is no requirement to be Catholic to attend our school. We do ask that families support the ethos of our school and respect the foundations in which we are built on. We take pride at St Michael's in educating the whole child and our Catholic ethos supports children to be wonderful human beings in this world with well-rounded thoughts and the ability to help others. We are also actively Catholic, which means

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we follow the path of God and do not judge. We accept people for who they are and offer support and guidance where needed.

I am not religious, and I am worried about this. What is expected from me as a parent?

St Michael's is a Catholic school with its own traditions and history. We ask our parents to support the ethos we create at our school. Our school was founded by the Josephite Sisters and we respect and honour our paSt Religion has changed significantly from the past and at St Michael's we like to encourage all within our community to be the best person they can be, living their life like Jesus.

Sometimes parents are worried they will say the wrong thing or come along to Mass and do the wrong thing, but this is something we are keen to assure doesn't happen. Being a Catholic school for us means we accept everyone and are never judgemental. The essence of our religion is all about being people that are accepting of others, demonstrating care for everyone and caring for our world. We also understand the fact that not all people believe what we believe in, so we make sure we respect everyone in our community.

We teach religion daily, respecting that not all children believe what we believe. Individual thoughts are respected; we just ask that all families respect and support the ethos of our school.

St Michael's is a small school – will my child have friends?

Some people view a small school in a negative way. We are in fact a big family. We understand and respect each other. We know each other and we support each other's strengths and weaknesses. With the number of students in our school and the way our students know each other, there is a different level of acceptance. We actively encourage our kids to embrace each other's differences and educate the kids to understand how other children think and feel.

We also have outstanding ratios so our children get what they need educationally. With smaller class sizes, there is more 1-1 learning time and we cater for individual needs. Our teachers understand the curriculum and differentiate for all students.

Do I have to pay fees?

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As a school, we do have fees. We also however have a number of ways to support families with this. We strongly believe that fees should not be a barrier to attending our school. We also provide a range of ways to pay fees, including breaking the cost up to fortnightly, achievable payments. At St Michael's, we also have fee assistance for families who are unable to meet the full fee requirements.

Our fees include everything your child will need for the entire year – there are no hidden surprises. The only thing not included in fees is our fundraising activities including Project Compassion, the Day for Daniel Fun Run or the St Vincent's Winter Appeal. In those situations, we only ask families to contribute what they can. There is no expectation to donate.

Our fees are distributed at the beginning of the year and include stationary and all excursions, swimming and camps. For families that need to budget, this makes their life so much easier as fees can be broken down for the year and paid as you go.

Will my child miss out on opportunities because it is a small school?

The way we see it, we offer a much more personalised approach to both learning and extra curricular programs. We have a strong working relationship with Tallangatta Primary School, so each term we access amazing shows for our students to attend. By combining our numbers for these activities, this becomes more cost effective for us. These costs are included in school fees so nothing extra is paid by parents.

We are also fortunate enough to work with the North East Small Schools Association for sporting events. By teaming together, our children attend Athletics, Cross Country and Swimming carnivals that normally we couldn't facilitate independently.

Parent Feedback

Our parent community is incredibly supportive of what we do and why they chose St Michael's as the educational institute for their child or children. Here are some of their responses;

“Leigh & I send our children to St Michael's for several reasons. Firstly, we feel part of the school family & we believe that you all care about our kids academic, social & emotional wellbeing as much as we do.

Secondly, I know they are safe at St Michael's. Any mention of bullying, swearing or undesirable behaviour is dealt with swiftly and respectfully. Thirdly, the student teacher ratio provides ample 1-1 learning opportunities for our girls which could not be achieved in a bigger school.

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Lastly, we believe that the staff at St Michael's hold the same values & morals as we do as a family, so it is reassuring to know that what we do & say at home is reaffirmed at school." Fran.



St Michael's Primary School is a real gem here in Tallangatta. As you walk through the doors you can feel the friendly, welcoming atmosphere. Children are nurtured, and creativity and individuality is celebrated. What I love about our school and what I feel is so special about it is that we have a place where children can thrive in a peaceful, safe and supportive environment, where teachers go above and beyond to ensure all students needs are met, without bias or judgment, and when any issues may arise they are dealt with straight away in a very caring and professional way. Our school prides itself on leading by example, and teaching values such as respect, compassion and resilience, values that I feel are of paramount importance in our world today. We have a team of enthusiastic young staff who are experienced, dedicated and professional, with up to date knowledge and fresh ideas to help lead the way into the future. St Michael's Primary is truly a small school with a big heart.

At the end of the day, every family chooses a school for a different reason. Some children need a particular environment to thrive. What works for one child at one school, may not work for another child, even within a family. We have students traveling from Wodonga to attend our school because of the environment we offer and the way those students feel within our community.

If you would like to find out more about what we offer, please give us a call on

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