Junior Secondary Philosophy

We strive to increase the capacity of our pupils and develop positive and enriching learning experiences tailored to develop and engage.

Our philosophy is based around the educational development of students through the fundamental building blocks for improved outcomes, wellbeing and passion for learning.

Distinct Identity

Junior Secondary students are supported to develop their own group identity within the broader school community, and have a strong sense of belonging and ownership of their school and their learning.

- Refurbished classrooms and flexible learning area
- Core teacher for Care Group from Years 7 – 12
- Junior Secondary camps linked with wellbeing and engagement
- Junior Secondary leadership program developed to maximise student potential
- 1:1 Student Laptop Scheme with computer technology embedded throughout the curriculum
- Literacy and Numeracy focus through ‘experience’ based learning
- Fewer Core Teachers through Junior Secondary to improve relationships and stability transitioning into a Senior Schooling approach
- Distinct approach to Junior Secondary with consistent task sheets, language and focus on CCE’s
- Programs embedded to increase wellbeing and engagement and improve student attendance and outcomes
- Junior Secondary development team established with a DP, HOD and Co-Ordinators
- Visible tracking of student progress in each classroom, attendance, behaviour and wellbeing

Quality Teaching

The learning and achievement of Junior Secondary students is supported by highly skilled teachers with pedagogical knowledge and practice appropriate for this age group.

- School Wide Positive Behaviour for Learning program underpinning all lessons
- Experience of Secondary Schooling across all subject areas
- Specialist teachers for elective subjects in a range of choices
- Access to specialist teaching spaces embedded in real world learning opportunities
- Junior Secondary numeracy and literacy focus through dedicated classes and innovative rotation activities as well as a whole school Literacy plan involving all KLA’s within the school
- Class grouping are tailored to different ability groupings to allow for a more streamlined and differentiated approach to improving student outcomes
- Special Education Unit
- State of the art technology in all teaching areas
- Flexibility in timetable to tailor student learning for greater outcomes
- Reward system in place to re-enforce and promote positive behaviour and engagement
Student wellbeing

Student wellbeing is positioned as core business, and there is a whole of school commitment to ensuring a safe, supportive, inclusive and disciplined environment for all Junior Secondary students as they make the transition to a secondary setting.

- Core school values which underpin all interaction – *We Care, We are Responsible, We Achieve*
- Whole school Engagement department specifically set up to cater for the needs of each cohort
- Extensive network of student support provisions and programs for students
- Pastoral care programs based around PBL models and ideas and given specific time to be explored within the timetable
- Fortnightly year level parades catered to each year level and their needs
- Anti-bullying and cyber bullying policy and process with the school clearly identified and made clear to all students
- School Responsible Behaviour Plan made clear and consistent through its use by all staff
- Indigenous and Polynesian Culture groups
- Regional Transition plan to smooth changeover between phases of learning

Parent and Community Involvement

There is a range of avenues to build the active and authentic involvement of Junior Secondary parents and community, and reciprocal partnerships exist between parents and the school.

- Parents and Citizens’ Association
- Student Council
- Network of fundraising and volunteering programs connected to the School’s Leadership program
- Parents and community members also have access to the school through regular newsletters, the school website and social media
- Strong ties with local Partner Schools
- Engagement for parents through extra-curricular and performance events

Local Decision-Making

Local school communities influence the shape of the Junior Secondary model in each school, reflecting local needs.

- Regular meetings with local Partner schools to develop curricular links and transitions
- Visible learning environment with displayed current data for student progress
- Scheduled meetings for parent feedback and consultation
- Partnerships established with many local community groups

Leadership

Leadership opportunities for staff and students are delivered through strong school leadership and a focus on support for Junior Secondary students.

- Junior Secondary leadership program for all year levels
- Student leaders actively work with departments to develop activities and serve the wider community
- School council positions available for interested students

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