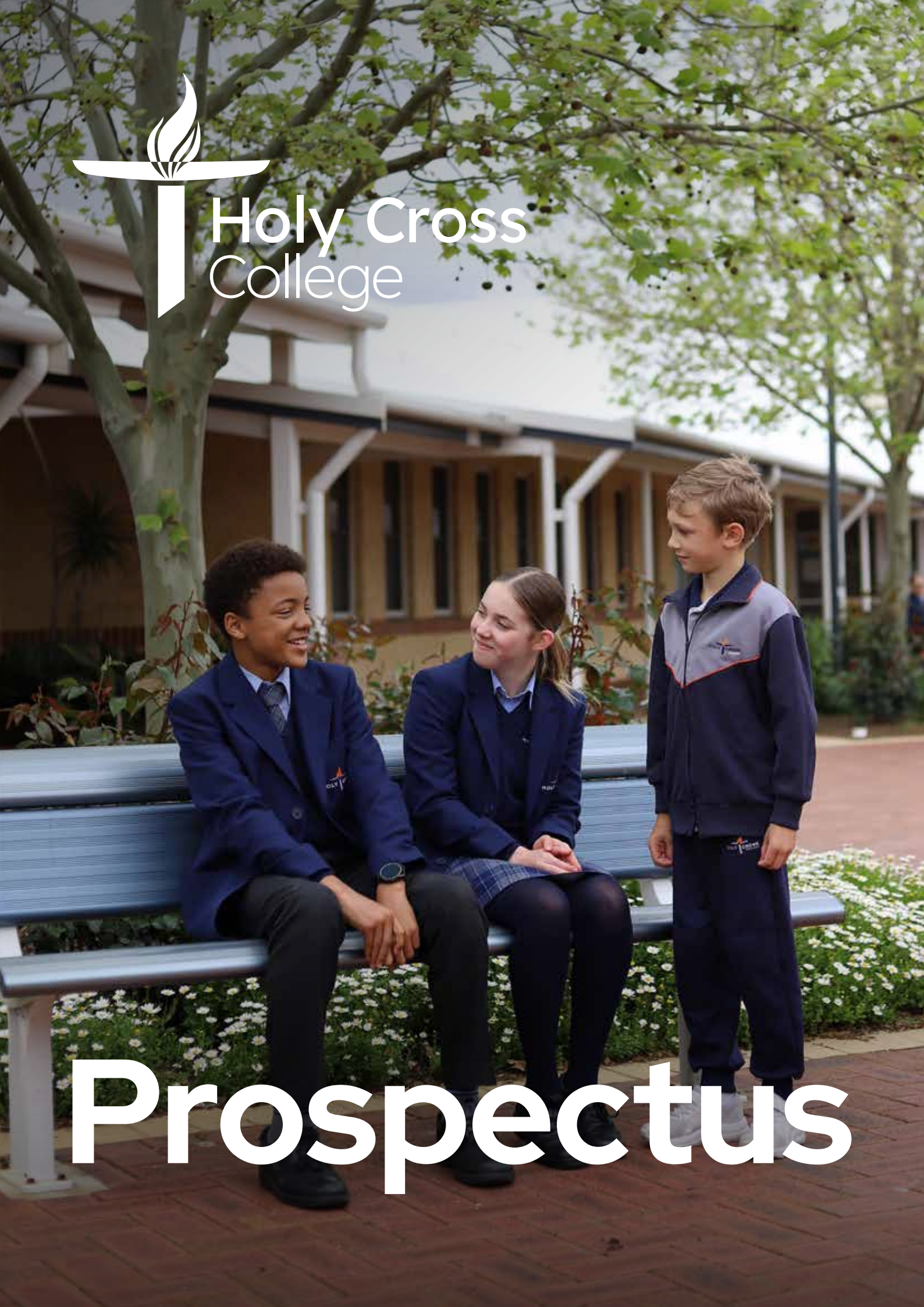

Holy Cross College

Prospectus

HOLY CROSS

Welcome

Welcome to Holy Cross College

A contemporary Catholic school for students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 in Ellenbrook.

At Holy Cross College, we believe education is more than academic achievement; it is a journey of transformation. Our mission is to nurture the whole person to have LIFE to the full.

We are a vibrant, inclusive community where every student is valued and supported. Through strong relationships and a culture of respect, we create an environment where young people feel safe to explore, learn and thrive. Together, we celebrate diversity and foster a spirit of collaboration and service.

Our approach to learning is dynamic and future-focused. We encourage curiosity, creativity and critical thinking, equipping students with the skills and dispositions they need to navigate an ever-changing world. With innovative programs and dedicated educators, we inspire a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.

At Holy Cross College, transformation is not just a goal, it is a way of life. I look forward to meeting your family and welcoming you to Holy Cross College.

Mr Albert Borrello
Principal

Why families choose us

Families love that education at Holy Cross College is future-focused, engaging and challenging. We understand that students are learning in a constantly changing world and need to be agile thinkers, equipped with the skills to thrive and confidently embrace their future.

As you walk through our beautiful, intentionally-designed campus, you'll see how our flexible workspaces have been thoughtfully planned to enable staff to efficiently adapt to student needs. State-of-the-art digital technology is embedded in all areas of the school, enhancing students' learning experiences. Outside, across our expansive grounds, they have the space to grow in our magnificent, green outdoor areas.

At Holy Cross College, our multi-focus approach provides a holistic experience where each student can discover a lifelong joy in learning, guided by our LIFE pillars:

Learning: Our focus is on developing core learning skills to ensure our students are equipped to face the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

Inter-relationships: Nurturing a caring, compassionate and connected environment – not only among our students, but also our wider community.

Faith: Celebrating a hope-filled Christian faith, grounded in reflection that leads to justice and service. Our faith-based approach to education encourages students to explore and deepen their spirituality, helping them to develop a strong sense of purpose.

Enrichment: Encouraging each person to receive the gifts of God with gratitude, cultivate them responsibly and share them lovingly with others.

Learning

Learning at Holy Cross College challenges each student to reach their full potential through a personalised and supportive learning environment that values individuality.

We are committed to integrating creative, innovative solutions that enhance learning and promote educational excellence. Our continual investment in technology allows us to provide tailored learning experiences to meet the needs of individual students, while also teaching safe and responsible use of technology from a young age.

Special gifts and educational challenges of students are valued and supported at the College. Our Learning Enrichment Team, consisting of specialist teachers and educational assistants, provide an inclusive environment for students to ensure they are, at all times, feeling valued and supported to participate and achieve.

Junior and Middle School students engage in a multi-disciplinary program, Big Ideas, to grow the essential global competencies of Character, Creativity, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication and Critical Thinking. We strive to develop visionary young people, who embrace their changing world with confidence and enthusiasm.

In an ever-changing world, there is a need for students to develop skills beyond traditional literacies, to empower them to flourish and be successful throughout their journey. The Senior School MyLIFE Program aims to instil the knowledge and skills students will need, not only to choose a destination, but to also be discerning as they navigate their way through differentiated pathways.

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Junior School

Our Junior Years program is carefully designed to provide our youngest learners with a nurturing environment where they feel valued, respected and supported as they begin their schooling journey. Our experienced and dedicated educators are committed to guiding children through their formative years, creating a sense of belonging and fostering a love of learning that will stay with them for life.

In the Early Years, we believe that children learn best through play, and therefore we provide a wide range of fun and engaging activities that are developmentally appropriate.

Our Pre-Kindergarten program is focused on play-based learning, with children encouraged to explore their world through imaginative play, music, art and games. In Kindergarten and Pre-Primary, children are provided opportunities to explore, engage and investigate through meaningful learning experiences. The curriculum is designed to be flexible, catering to the individual needs and interests of each child.

As students progress through the Junior Years, the curriculum includes a research-supported focus on the building blocks of literacy and numeracy, as well as social, emotional and physical development. Students work on skills such as language and communication, social interaction, problem-solving and creative thinking. From Year 2, they are introduced to abstract thinking, designed to expand their understandings and connections to the wider world beyond their immediate experiences.

In preparation for Middle School, Year 6 students begin to shape their own learning and are equipped with the skills, knowledge and confidence to move into the Secondary Years. Guided through their journey, they are encouraged to develop a growth mindset to take on challenges and believe in continual improvement and aiming for their best.

Middle School

During Years 7 to 9, students undergo a period of self-discovery as they continue to develop their personal identities and begin to explore their interests and strengths. At this stage, students take on personal responsibility for their learning, progress and achievements, with the guidance of our experienced educators. Our curriculum is designed to engage and challenge our students, while also nurturing their passions and talents.

At the beginning of Middle School in Year 7, students are exposed to a broad curriculum that covers various subject areas, including specialist subjects. Students in Year 7 continue to have their class-based learning in the same space with dedicated experts in each subject coming to them, but begin to take specialist lessons in purpose-built facilities. Compulsory courses in Year 7 are Religious Education, Science, Mathematics, Humanities, English, Physical Education and Health, Technologies, The Arts and the Big Ideas program. This allows them to experience and discover what they enjoy and what their strengths are, which then informs their elective choices from Year 8 onwards.

In Years 8 and 9, students have the opportunity to craft their own educational program by choosing their preferred electives to study alongside the core, compulsory courses. Subject to availability, electives can be chosen from a range of options spanning Performing and Visual Arts, Media, Materials Technology, Business, Food Science, Languages, and Outdoor or Sports Education.

Our Middle School program not only focuses on academic success, but also encourages personal growth and development. Students are expected to develop the habits of home study to prepare themselves for the challenges of Senior School. At Holy Cross, we foster a supportive and inclusive learning environment where students can thrive and build positive relationships with their peers and teachers.

Senior School

As students approach the end of their Senior schooling (Year 10 to Year 12), they begin to consider their future and the possibilities that await them. At this stage, the curriculum offering becomes increasingly focused and specialised as they continue developing their interests across a variety of learning areas.

We recognise that each student is unique, with individual strengths, interests and aspirations. That is why we offer a range of pathways for Senior students to choose from, including ATAR, General, Uni-Ready (an alternative pathway to university entry) and vocational certificate courses including ONSITE (College Workplace Learning in an industry of their choosing), TAFE's VET in Schools program and school-based apprenticeships and traineeships. We aim to ensure that each student follows the path that best suits their needs, helps them to achieve their goals and sets them up for their future.

Our educators work closely with each student to provide guidance and support as they select the courses to help them thrive and reach their full potential. We also encourage students to take advantage of our extensive co-curricular opportunities, building valuable skills and experiences.

We believe every student has the potential to achieve great things. Throughout Secondary schooling, we aim to empower our students to take control of their future, identify their passions and develop the skills and knowledge they need. By supporting our students to achieve their goals, we hope to prepare them for a life of purpose, fulfilment and success – however they define it.

Learning Enrichment

At Holy Cross College, we recognise that not all students learn at the same pace and that some students have the capacity for extension and challenges beyond their peers, while others need additional support. Students achieving at a high-level academic ability are encouraged to engage with rigorous learning experiences within the classroom and extend themselves through one of our stimulating extra-curricular opportunities.

For students requiring additional support, our team utilises a range of programs and techniques, personalised to each child. These may include helping students with their academic progress or their social and emotional skills. Students are monitored against their individual goals by the Learning Enrichment Team, specialised teachers and educational assistants, to ensure everyone is achieving to the best of their own ability. The Learning Enrichment Team provide individualised and small group programs in classes or within a dedicated area called The Plaza.

Wherever possible, students participate in mainstream classes and access all aspects of the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

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Faith

Holy Cross College is foundationally built upon a hope-filled Christian faith, that grows from understanding and reflection, and leads to the outworking of justice and service. Our four LIFE pillars are drawn from the Gospel of John, where Jesus said, "I came that they may have life and have it to the full." (John 10:10 NIV). It is our heartfelt desire, that during their time at the College, each student should come to know and experience life in abundance and undergo an authentic discovery of faith.

Though we are diverse in our cultures, our strong Catholic identity is embedded into everyday life at the College. We share our campus with St Helena of the Holy Cross Parish Church and our buildings are intentionally named in honour of our Patrons and key sites of local pilgrimage. Our Olive Grove, which now includes more than 30 trees, is a place for students to sit quietly and reflect or pray.

> The Catholic faith is taught to develop students' knowledge and understanding and enrich their lives with Christian values.

The College derives inspiration from its patron, Saint Oscar Romero, and House patrons – Mother Ursula Frayne, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, Sister Irene McCormack and Dom Rosendo Salvado. The school community draws upon the stories of how their founding religious congregation exemplified particular gifts of the Spirit in living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our unique character is shaped by our culture, stories and traditions, which we communicate through our distinctively Catholic values, rituals and practices. We uphold our Catholic identity and charism, in the hope that it will continue to flourish and endure for generations to come.

Religious Education

Religious Education is compulsory for all students from Kindergarten to Year 12, delivered in accordance with Catholic Education Western Australia's curriculum.

The program aims to help students learn the teaching of the Gospel as proclaimed by the church. Our Religious Education courses are designed to reinforce the faith education of our families and support in the awareness of the Church's story, beliefs, structures and rituals. The Catholic faith is taught to develop students' knowledge and understanding and enrich their lives with Christian values.

Faith traditions, Liturgical Life and Pilgrimage

Faith traditions, Liturgical life and Pilgrimage are integral parts of College life, provided through everyday reflection and prayer, celebration of the Eucharist, House liturgies and liturgies to mark special occasions. In Junior School, students can participate in the Parish Sacramental programs of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Liturgies are often themed on our Patron Saint and House Patrons.

We have a significant tradition of pilgrimage at the College, inspired by Bishop Rosendo Salvado and his journey from Perth to the Benedictine Community in New Norcia. Every year, students undertake age-appropriate journeys to develop a deeper understanding of God, themselves, a sense of community and nature. We also use pilgrimage in many of our liturgical celebrations to enrich our encounters with God and the story of faith throughout history.

At Holy Cross, our Christian Service Learning takes the form of the Giving LIFE program – providing students with opportunities to serve the local community. Students are encouraged to use their gifts and talents to participate in active, meaningful citizenship at home, school, parish and local community levels.

HOLY CROSS

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

We are committed to nurturing a caring, compassionate and connected community at the College. This is achieved through a series of pastoral care and wellbeing programs, designed to foster positive student health.

House System

Pastoral care at the College is structured around the House System. Our Houses are all named for and inspired by our House Patrons: Mother Ursula Frayne, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, Sister Irene McCormack and Bishop Rosendo Salvado. In selecting our Patrons, the College carefully considered those who reflect the mission and vision of our community, represent one of our LIFE pillars and is an appropriate role model for students at Holy Cross College.

Each student and staff member belongs to a House which they remain a part of throughout their time at the College. Belonging to a House instils a sense of camaraderie and connection, coming together for House Days and events. The vertical structure of Houses allow older students to build strong relationships and mentor their younger peers.

Wellbeing

With the understanding that students need support across a range of physical, emotional and social aspects, wellbeing at Holy Cross is recognised by all staff.

Our Saint James Centre features modern first aid suites and private offices for students to meet with health providers. We believe in strong links between wellbeing and learning, and that there is no better way to support the health of our community than to empower people, through education and understanding, to be aware of their own wellbeing.

Developing resilience and providing a safe space for everyone to be themselves helps maximise educational and social outcomes. Supporting students, and staff, in the areas of physical, social and emotional wellbeing and mental health, helps us nurture a safe community which values the respect and dignity of each person.

More Opportunities

Participation in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities and experiences beyond the classroom provide students with opportunities to develop their talents, interests and gifts. We encourage all students to explore our co-curricular programs and take advantage of these chances to discover their potential and discover new areas of interest.

Co-curricular experiences, including excursions, incursions and field trips enrich the educational journey. They can lead to deeper learning as students explore different interests, discover broader perspectives and gain life skills. Our annual LIFE Week, in which all students participate, is a week of enrichment including cross-curricular activities, camps, pilgrimages and other events.

Extra-curricular clubs, which may occur during and after school, offer opportunities for students to explore their passions with like-minded peers. Clubs change yearly, subject to interest, but may include games, art, film, drama, dance, cake decorating, mathematics or homework.

The Arts, both performing and visual, are popular choices for students at Holy Cross College. Students can access instrumental music tuition to hone their skills, join a music ensemble or the choir, participate in the College Drama Production, utilise our dedicated Dance Studio or participate in visual arts exhibitions.

Sport focuses on both participation and competition. Lightning Carnivals and Inter-House Carnivals in swimming, cross-country and athletics foster School and House spirit. Exceptional athletes are invited to represent the school at various Inter-school competitions. Students can also participate in after-school sports against other schools including in basketball, netball, frisbee and soccer.

Student Leadership is open to students interested in making a difference in their community. There are various ways in which students can participate as leaders, including the formal appointments of Captains, House Leaders and LIFE Leaders. Engaging in leadership roles build in students a sense of service and self-confidence, as well an understanding of their place in the community and how they can help others and their school.

Social Justice and Service activities, closely tied to our Catholic values, are also undertaken throughout the year. Students are encouraged to use their gifts and talents to participate in active, meaningful citizenship at the home, school, parish and local community level. Working in partnership with a variety of organisations, these acts allow students to grow in understanding of social issues, the needs of others and how they can help.

“... explore different interests, discover broader perspectives and gain life skills.

Community

At Holy Cross College, we believe in having compassion and respect for one another, and extending that to our wider community. Our relationships with feeder schools and other organisations, and the families that make up our school community, are nurtured and enhanced.

We recognise and acknowledge a continued connection with the Whadjuk people of the Nyoongar Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which our College stands. Aboriginal culture and stories are embedded into learning experiences across the College, and we partner with various organisations and people for greater understanding of Aboriginal heritage and history.

Parent participation is also essential in developing a flourishing Holy Cross family. Our parents and friends group, the Friends of Holy Cross, oversees community events and runs fundraising activities to support the School. All parents and caregivers are highly encouraged to become involved in the Friends of Holy Cross, contributing to a real sense of belonging and friendship as well as sharing their talents and skills for the betterment of the community.

Explore

We invite you to learn more about how Holy Cross College can empower your child to achieve their personal best and 'have life to the full' by visiting our campus.

Discover more about Holy Cross College by joining us for an Open Day or Personalised Tour. Explore the beautiful grounds and dynamic learning spaces, meet our dedicated staff and hear about the infinite possibilities awaiting your child.

Please see the website for upcoming Open Day dates or reach out to our Enrolments Team to arrange a personalised tour at:
enrolments@holycross.wa.edu.au

> Explore the beautiful grounds and dynamic learning spaces, meet our dedicated staff and hear about the infinite possibilities awaiting your child.

Next Steps

Once you've discovered all that Holy Cross College has to offer, we invite you to submit an enrolment application.

Though our primary intakes are in Kindergarten and Year 7, we welcome enrolment applications all year round for any year, subject to availability. We recommend applying early, as many enrolment places are filled well in advance.

Follow the next steps below:

1. Complete an Application for Enrolment Form and submit to the College with the relevant documentation and the non-refundable Application Fee. Please note, submitting the form and fee does not guarantee admission.

2. The College may invite parents and students to attend an interview with the Principal or their delegate. If you are asked to interview, you will be sent a Pre-Interview Student Details Form in advance.

3. All applicants will be advised in writing of the success or otherwise of their application. Offers of a position is at the discretion of the Principal. For year groups where positions are not available, you may be placed on a Wait List.

If you'd like to receive an Application for Enrolment Form, or have any further questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Enrolments Office.

(08) 9297 7600
enrolments@holycross.wa.edu.au

We hope to welcome you soon to Holy Cross College!

HOLY CROSS

Holy Cross College

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