



# St Mary's School

12 Watkin Street,

Robinvale

PH: 03 50263 483

Email: [principal@smrobinvale.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@smrobinvale.catholic.edu.au)

Web address: [www.smrobinvale.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smrobinvale.catholic.edu.au)

**We are RESPECTFUL**

**We are SAFE**

**We are LEARNERS**

## LEARNING AND TEACHING AT ST MARY'S SCHOOL

St Mary's School is situated in Robinvale, North West Victoria on the Murray River. As a border community Robinvale has a close affiliation with Euston, NSW. The two towns are connected via a bridge across the Murray River. St Mary's caters for students from Robinvale, Euston and the surrounding district, all of which are considered growth areas.

Robinvale and the surrounding districts are predominantly farming areas that specialise in table grape production, wine grape production, almond and olive oil production, carrots, avocados as well as dry land farming. As a result, many families have settled in this area for the work that the farming and agriculture industry provides.

Robinvale is a proudly multicultural community. We aim to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for people from all backgrounds and to offer a quality education that recognises and respects the diversity of all our students, families and the wider community.

St Mary's enrolments reflect the community's cultural diversity. Our student population includes 52% Australian, 13% Italian, 6.7% Vietnamese, 3.8% Sri Lankan, 2.9% Greek, 2.9% Indian, 2.9% Cambodian and 1% Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander. Approximately 25-30% of students speak a language other than English at home and at least 14 languages other than English are spoken. These include; Hindi, Malay, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Cantonese, Thai, Filipino, Tongan, Chinese, Mandarin, Afrikaans, Fijian, Tagalog and Telugu.

This diversity includes people of many faith backgrounds, philosophies and world views. There are at least 10 religions represented in the school; these include; Catholic, Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Methodist/Wesleyan, Greek Orthodox, Anglican, Seventh Day Adventist, Hindu and Uniting.

As a rural town Robinvale has a distinct sense of community. This sense of community is transferred to the school and is a prominent, highly valued feature. St Mary's also has a close connection to St Mary's Parish. The church is located directly opposite the school making participation in Sacramental programs, Masses and other Parish events easily achievable. A strong relationship between staff, students, families and the Parish is welcomed and nurtured through regular communication and participation in all aspects of school life.

St Mary's has a current enrolment of 279 students with a current SES score of 89 and approximately 30% of St Mary's students on the NCCD funding list. The National Distribution of Social Educational Disadvantage (NDSIED) when compared to other sectors sits at 52% disadvantage. This analysis highlights the fact that St Mary's is not only amongst the most disadvantaged schools in the Diocese of Ballarat but in all schools across Australia. Although faced with significant challenges, when compared with like schools, St Mary's consistently achieves above expectations.

St Mary's School has changed in recent years from an Early Primary and Middle Years structure to now having a distinct Primary and Secondary school component. The Primary School is divided into three units: Junior (Prep to Year 2), Middle (Years 3 & 4) and Senior (Years 5 & 6). The Secondary School consists of Years 7 & 8. This composition is unique in our Diocese.

The Primary school has specialist classes for Physical Education, Languages, Digital Technology, Visual and Performing Arts.

St Mary's teachers are highly skilled professionals who are committed to their students. They work in collaborative teams and focus on the specific needs of each individual student at every point in their education and development. They are constantly striving to ensure each student learns to their full capacity. Working in collaborative teams, our teachers plan together, carefully consider student data, use their collective knowledge and skill to inform their teaching and learn from each other. The focus for our Professional Learning Teams over the past few years has been on developing a well documented and robust curriculum and improving reading data across the school.

In addition to the teaching staff, St Mary's students are supported by a team of Learning Support Officers, School Services Officers and Administration Staff. We also employ English as an Additional Language (EAL) Leader and a Community Liaison Officer to support our diverse population. A Leadership Team which includes the Principal, Deputy Principal Primary, Deputy Principal Secondary, Deputy Principal Faith & Wellbeing, Wellbeing Leader and Learning Diversity Leader work closely with staff to ensure every child in the school has access to a robust, contemporary and engaging curriculum. Our staff are constantly seeking ways to improve pedagogy and wellbeing to cater for all students including those with additional learning, behavioural or wellbeing needs. We aim to ensure each and every child in our care has the opportunity to reach their full potential in a caring, nurturing and safe learning environment.

This structure of the school enables collaborative Professional Learning Teams (PLTs) to work together. Teachers are supported to further their professional learning and implement a range of strategies to improve the quality of their teaching. We believe strongly in the power of collaboration to improve student outcomes and intend to continue our work on creating high functioning, collaborative PLTs into the foreseeable future. We focus on the concept of 'our students' which means, in addition to individual classroom teachers, there is a group of dedicated teachers and a variety of support staff, working together to improve the learning and monitor the wellbeing of every student in the school.

As mentioned above, St Mary's teachers work collaboratively in their PLTs to plan, organise, share, guide and implement a robust curriculum in an engaging learning environment. This ensures all students are guided and encouraged to develop and fulfill their potential through high quality pedagogy and a differentiated curriculum that is adjusted according to each student's needs. It is an expectation that teachers work to develop strong relationships with staff, students and family members to ensure effective communication and to maintain strong partnerships between school and the home environment. Teachers keep accurate, detailed records of planning and assessment and this knowledge is used to drive their teaching in order to achieve better student outcomes.

A Learning Diversity Team (LDT) further strengthens our ability to meet the learning needs of all students. The LDT consists of a Leader and team of Learning Support Officers. The role of LD Leader is to manage the LDT, and collaborate with teachers to analyse student data, identify students at risk, implement and oversee intervention programs, monitor progress and advise and assist teachers in the implementation of classroom adjustments for students. This includes the development of Personalised Learning Plans (PLPs) and Curriculum Plans for those who have additional learning needs.

To support student behaviour, St Mary's has implemented School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS). SWPBS is a framework that brings together school communities to build a positive, safe and supportive culture. Adopting this framework has enabled St Mary's to develop a consistent approach to behaviour management across all year levels and further enhance the core values of the school. A Wellbeing Leader supports our student's social emotional development. The Wellbeing Leader delivers a range of wellbeing services aimed at improving student outcomes, engagement and connectedness as well as providing a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment for all. This includes the development and implementation of Behaviour Support, Escalation and Safety Plans.

Our Religious Education Curriculum, Awakenings, is a feature of our classroom program. Teachers are supported by the Deputy Principal Faith & Wellbeing to collaborate and develop units of work. This curriculum is supported by whole school celebrations including Masses, school based Liturgies, Feast Days, Catholic Education Week celebrations, Lenten focused projects and Mercy Missions.