

CURRICULUM

UNCOVER THE STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

CURRICULUM AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- What is the College best at?
- Where do they obtain their best results?
- How many VCE subjects are offered?
- Is the homework policy recorded?
- Is the Performing Arts program valued?
- Is the sport program all inclusive?
- Is sport offered up to and including Year 12?
- Is there opportunity for extra-curricular involvement?
- Is there debating/chess/public speaking?
- What opportunities are available as community service ventures?
- Is there an online reporting/feedback system?
- Does the curriculum include Religious Education?
- Which languages are offered?
- What is the camp program?
- Are there study tours?

FACILITIES

- Inspect the students' learning environment
- Are the classrooms well equipped?
- Are the learning places clean?
- Is there a facilities masterplan?
- What is the next project?
- Do the grounds allow for physical activity?
- Is the College reasonably self-sufficient with regard to sporting facilities?

STUDENTS AND STAFF

- Know the heart of the school - the staff and the students
- Do I share the same values as the school?
- How do staff and students interact?
- How do members of the College community present?
- Do you feel welcome?
- Does the school work in partnership with parents?
- How many students are in a class?
- Is there a transition program?
- Is there a buddy program?

INFORMED

DECISIONS, AND HOW TO MAKE THEM

Things you can do to learn about a school so that you can make an informed decision:

- Explore websites
- Attend information events
- Attend guided tours or other opportunities to visit the school when the students are in class
- Talk to people in your network: family, other parents, students and teachers at your primary school
- Observe students in the community
- Keep in mind your child's individual strengths and unique learning needs.

KEY POINTS

- Each school will have strengths and weaknesses
- No one school will magically suit every child
- The school you choose must be the best fit for your child and your family.

OTHER RESOURCES

Parenting Ideas

Michael Grose

<http://www.parentingideas.com.au/Blog/June-2010/Choosing-a-school-for-your-child>

Catholic Schools Guide

Greg Campitelli

- Essential Tips when Choosing a College (downloadable e-book)
- Catholic Schools Guide (magazine distributed to primary schools)

<http://catholicschoolsguide.com.au/>

Catholic Education Office of Melbourne

- Embracing the Fullness of Life –Parent Handbook for Victorian Catholic Secondary Schools

<http://www.ceomelb.catholic.edu.au/publications-policies/parent-handbooks/>

Good Luck with your research!

CHOOSING A SECONDARY SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD



SALESIAN COLLEGE
CHADSTONE EST.1957

CONSIDERATIONS

AND QUESTIONS TO ASK

FAMILY VALUES

- What type of education system do I want for my child?
- Consider the philosophical options.
- Will my child be best suited by a Catholic, Government or Private education provider?
- Will my child benefit most from a co-educational or single sex education?
- How far am I willing to travel to a school?
- Investigate the impact that the location of a school will have on the whole family
- Do I want my child to attend a local school?
- How is the school served by public transport?
- Does the school operate a Charter Bus to my area and if so at what cost?

DECISION MAKING

By answering these questions you will have narrowed down the number of schools to investigate. The following criteria will assist you in making decisions about the schools you visit.

“What type of education system do I want for my child?”

ENROLMENT POLICY

UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS

THE PRIORITY PARISH SYSTEM

- Is the policy available and published and is the policy open and inclusive?
- Do they have an inclusive enrolment policy or are they selective with their enrolment offers?
- How can I find out in which Parish I reside?
- Which College has been allocated my Parish as a priority?
- When are applications due?
- What is the enrolment process and what are the key dates?
- Is there an enrolment or application fee?
- What is the criteria used when considering

applications?

- Can I enroll at the school of my choice?
- Is it essential for students in a Catholic school to have done their sacraments?
- Do they welcome students of all abilities?

ACADEMIC RESULTS

- Research the school's VCE results
- Are the school's VCE results strong?
- Do they ask students to leave at the end of Year 10 or 11?
- Do they have weaker students do an unscored VCE/VCAL program?

FEES

AND SERVICES

THE STRUCTURE

- Are the fees published by the school fully inclusive?
- Is there an additional cost for excursions/camps/programs/laptops/music etc?
- Are payment plans/ method of payment options available or does everything need to be paid upfront?
- Is there a sibling discount?
- If I can't afford the fees is there any fee assistance offered?
- What is the cost of the uniform and books?

Find out about the extra services the school may or may not provide

- What programs are offered if my child requires additional support?
- What programs are offered if my child is highly academically able?
- What career /pathway programs are offered? E.g. VCAL/VET subjects
- Who is primarily responsible for pastoral care/wellbeing?
- Does the school provide opportunities for the students to develop life skills?
- Does the school provide counsellors/youth workers etc and how is support provided?
- Does the school have an active anti-bullying and student well-being policy?

EXTRA SERVICES

Pathways, Learning Support, Student Wellbeing and Programs for High Achievers