



OUR LADY  
OF THE  
SOUTHERN  
CROSS  
COLLEGE

*Journey in Faith & Knowledge*

## PROSPECTUS

### Preparatory to Year Twelve

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## **A Message from the Principal**

### **Dear Parents and Students,**

It is with both pleasure and pride that I welcome you to Our Lady of the Southern Cross College.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross College is a coeducational Catholic Prep to Year 12 College that unashamedly nurtures its students in Christian beliefs and values. As a College community we strive to integrate faith in Christ with everyday life and model Christ values, such as, respect, care, justice and forgiveness in all our interactions.

Within the Our Lady of the Southern Cross College learning community each student is valued and encouraged to pursue personal excellence in all aspects of his or her development: spiritual, moral, academic, emotional, physical, social and cultural. The College provides a strong caring environment through formal Pastoral Care and Life skills programmes and most importantly through the caring, positive interactions between each student and their class teacher. This is the context in which quality teaching and learning, the foundation of a quality education can occur.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross College offers students a comprehensive curriculum that provides a wide range of subjects and programmes that cater for the diverse interests, needs and abilities our students. The College's Careers Information Centre informs students of the wonderful array of opportunities available to them. Academic Excellence and Diligence awards encourage and acknowledge students who strive for their personal best.

The College promotes the development of self-discipline based on the Christ values. Discipline is reinforced by strong and consistently maintained rules, standards and expectations. Students are encouraged to demonstrate appropriate personal pride by the manner in which they conduct and present themselves both at school and in the wider community.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross College offers an extensive co-curricular program in Music, Art, Drama and Dance. Student achievement in each of these fields has been acknowledged by external evaluators. In addition, a very strong inter-school sporting program catering for both female and male students supplements the internal inter-house sport activities. The College is a member of the Qld State Secondary Sports Assoc. (QSSSA) and is eligible to nominate students for any sport conducted by the Association.

We, at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College acknowledge that parents are the first educators of their children and therefore, we appreciate the trust and confidence of parents who request that we partner them in this sacred task. This partnership is dynamic and evolving as we work together with each student to enable them to grow in wisdom and maturity in preparation for their entry into adult life.

This booklet contains information about Our Lady of the Southern Cross College and what it has to offer each student. Please consider this information, talk with family and friends and contact the College to seek additional information or clarification as you make this important decision about your son or daughter's education.

We, at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College look forward to partnering you and your student in this exciting and challenging journey to adulthood.

**Peter Cuskelly**

**Principal**

## **VISION STATEMENT**

The vision of Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby is to offer Catholic education from the Preparatory Year to Year 12 in one school community.

The aim of Catholic schooling is to nurture students, staff and parents in a Christian environment expressed within the Catholic tradition of holistic human development in the spiritual, academic, social, cultural and physical dimensions. In serving the Dalby community Catholic schooling will base its ministry on the defining features of Catholic schools:

- Attentiveness to the life-giving presence of God
- Ministry within the Church
- Place of learning
- Community of care and compassion
- Inclusive and outreaching culture
- Continuous improvement through renewal

## **OUR MISSION**

Our Lady the Southern Cross College Education Board endorses an education ministry, which endeavours to:

- promote Christian faith development and spiritual fulfilment of all in our community;
- promote education based on Gospel values where learning is open to all;
- establish an ethos of teaching/learning excellence where all participants involved strive to develop the individual's spiritual, academic, physical, emotional and social potential;
- support and nurture all individuals, within a Catholic environment, throughout life's experiences; and
- involve (where possible) all members of the parish and wider community, including those who would otherwise be neglected.

Our College is an integral part of the Dalby parish community of faith. We therefore accept this mission by:

- \* striving to develop a strong Catholic identity;
- \* providing an appropriate environment wherein Gospel values are espoused and lived;
- \* encouraging students to grow to full spiritual and academic potential;
- \* providing appropriate opportunity for parents to become involved in school and policy management;
- \* undertaking to challenge and awaken individual values and life skills in harmony with the Gospel message which should permeate all curriculum components;
- \* working towards the goal of Self Discipline with a caring and positive attitude;
- \* engendering a sense of respect and consideration for others;
- \* fostering unity within the school parish and town community with a policy of tolerance and goodwill; and
- \* making Christ present in daily routine through example in word and in action.

This is fostered in the College by:

- \* daily Religious Education lessons in the content areas of scripture, celebration and prayer, beliefs and morality;
- \* regular participation in Eucharist, Reconciliation and other liturgical and prayer celebrations by students, teachers, parents and the wider community;
- \* integration of Religious Education outcomes throughout the school curriculum;
- \* involvement in Parish initiatives such as the Parish sacramental program, joining residents of one of our aged care facilities for mass, etc; and
- \* parental involvement in the College, Parents and Friends and Education Board.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### ***Purpose***

Our Religious Education Program highlights the religious and moral development of our students within the framework of the Catholic tradition and aims to help students to:

- \* grow in their knowledge and understanding of God;
- \* develop self-worth;
- \* develop their moral sensitivities and sense of responsibility;
- \* communicate about religious matters;
- \* understand and appreciate the Catholic religious heritage and the religious heritage of others; and
- \* engage in projects which will support a just society.

These aims are achieved through the classroom teaching of Religious Education, programs of assessment, service activities, involvement in prayer and liturgical celebrations and class visits by our Parish priests, all of which assist students to develop their knowledge and understanding of religious issues, as well as their general moral awareness and sense of responsibility.

### ***Principles***

Religious Education is based on the following principles:

- \* the primary focus of the classroom teaching of religion is educational;
- \* the richness of the Catholic tradition is presented faithfully, and with integrity;
- \* there is acknowledgement of the diversity of religious beliefs and practices in Australian society and the wider world;
- \* the rights of parents as the first educators of their children are recognised;
- \* teaching is done by teachers with appropriate professional qualifications, experience and faith commitment;
- \* a range of learning processes and resources are used;
- \* Religious Education is recognised as a Key Learning Area;
- \* Learning is continuous and progressive across the years of schooling; and
- \* Appropriate processes for assessment, reporting and evaluation are included.

Applying these principles to classroom teaching means that:

- \* religion needs to be understood as being worthy of study in its own right;
- \* children are assisted to know about, understand and appreciate the Catholic faith tradition and its impact throughout history;
- \* young people are encouraged to appreciate the insights and heritage of other religious traditions;
- \* the Religious Education program builds upon the foundations laid by parents;
- \* Teachers work collaboratively with parents in religious education;
- \* Teachers of religion have professional competence in scripture, theology and religious education theory and practice and witness the Catholic faith they teach;
- \* A variety of learning processes and resources are used to show students ways in which religion relates to their own lives and to the world in which they live;
- \* there is an appropriate allocation of classroom time and resources across all year levels;
- \* learning is progressive and dynamic and avoids needless repetition; and
- \* appropriate and efficient means of assessment, reporting and evaluation are maintained.

## **COLLEGE PROFILE**

Our Lady of the Southern Cross College is a P-12 College. Prior to 2008 St Columba's, established by the Sisters of Mercy in 1877, was the primary school and St Mary's, established by the Christian Brothers in 1962, was the secondary College. The unification of the two schools began late in 2006 and throughout 2007.

Preschool was introduced into the school at the beginning of 1996. From 2003, the primary school was involved in the trial of the Preparatory Year and therefore was well placed when Prep was formally introduced at the beginning of 2007.

Current enrolment stands at approximately 700 students with 460 students in the Primary section of the College.

### ***Facilities***

The following facilities are available within the College:

- Modern air- conditioned classrooms
- Interactive white boards within general classrooms
- Modern air-conditioned Library, with computerised circulation and internet access and qualified librarian.
- State of the art computer network with internet access and personal email
- Computers in classrooms and 3 computer labs including 180 PC's and 54 portable laptops
- Whole College Wireless Network
- Modern teaching equipment and resources (regularly updated)
- Large playgrounds and playground equipment
- Extensive array of sporting equipment
- Wonderful gardens and outdoor sitting areas
- Large undercover outdoor eating and meeting areas

## ***Other Attributes***

Southern Cross College has an enviable record of participation and success in co-curricular activities competing very favourably against much larger schools. These activities include :-

- ❖ A wide variety of sporting endeavours both team & individual
  - Athletics
  - Cross country
  - Swimming
  - Equestrian
  - Triathlon
  - Tennis
  - Netball
  - Volleyball
  - Touch football
  - Rugby union
  - Soccer
  - Rugby league
  - AFL
  - Cricket
- ❖ A successful choral music programme
- ❖ Instrumental music programme with stage and concert bands
- ❖ College musical and band tours
- ❖ Rock Eisteddfod and J Rock
- ❖ Dalby Eisteddfods
- ❖ Queensland Debating Union Competition (Queensland Wide )
- ❖ Apex Debating Competition
- ❖ Youth Speaks for Australia Competition
- ❖ Lions Youth of the Year
- ❖ Voice of Youth
- ❖ Rostrum
- ❖ Opti-minds
- ❖ Maths Challenge
- ❖ Maths Olympiad
- ❖ Japan home stays for our students
- ❖ Australian home stays for French students
- ❖ Skiing Trip to New Zealand
- ❖ Canberra Tour
- ❖ Japan Language and Cultural Tour

Our Lady of the Southern Cross College is a Prep to Year 12 school. Our primary purpose is to provide quality education within the framework of the Catholic Christian tradition. The whole College community - staff, parents, pastors and students - works in partnership to achieve this end.

## ***Curriculum- Junior School (Prep – Year 6)***

The curriculum is based upon the syllabi set by the Queensland Education Department. In all subject areas however, the staff have adapted the State guidelines and recommendations to meet the needs and interests of the children as well as to suit the resources and philosophy of the school. This results in a school based curriculum, which is continually being redeveloped, evaluated and updated in line with the numerous new ideas and recommended changes that are constantly being presented. Integrating set curriculum with everyday life skills and events within the Christian context is a priority.

All subject areas are planned and developed in an integrated way and are outcomes based.

Please note Computer Education, Japanese, Physical Education and Music are included in our curriculum.

## **Curriculum – Senior School (Year 7 – 12)**

Major curriculum initiatives centre on implementing “Middle School” philosophy and principles and a commitment to improving outcomes for students. The timetable is being restructured to allow for more flexibility in the future and our plan is to design tasks for students that involve integrating several subject areas to work towards completing a project. The project they work on will utilise the skills, knowledge and processes they learn in different subject areas to produce outcomes that have real world value, necessary for life in a complex and technological world.

## **ENROLMENT**

### ***Enrolment Policy***

Enrolment will be in accordance with Our Lady of the Southern Cross College Education Board “Enrolment Policy” – Reference to this policy can be made at the School Office.

### ***Application for Enrolment***

An “Application for Enrolment” form must be completed as fully as possible for every child to be enrolled. Before an application can be considered, the following conditions apply:

- Parents must be prepared to accept the conditions of the enrolment policy fully in respect to each and every child. The acceptance of the conditions of enrolment is achieved through the signing of a legally binding contract between the Parents and the Principal of the College.
- Parents to arrange for an interview with the Principal.
- Proof of age is required in the form of a Birth Certificate or extract. (Mandatory) Copies of immunisations records and the last two academic reports are also required.
- The College appreciates copies of Baptismal and Sacramental certificates.

**Enrolment does not automatically follow as the result of an application.**



## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Parent participation in the life of the college and in their children's education has a positive impact on student outcomes. When schools work together with families to support learning, children tend to succeed, not just in school but throughout life.

Parents are recognised as partners with professional teachers in the education of their children, with the parents being the first educators.

### ***Parents and Friends Association***

The Our Lady of the Southern Cross College Parents and Friends Association (P&F) exists for the benefit of the college community and is involved in the total life of the school. Parents have a vital collaborative role to play in the development and implementation of educational philosophy and policy of the school.

The P&F is a means of providing parents with a voice in the College community. This is an important organisation which allows parents the opportunity to become more involved with the school and its activities. Through discussion, decision making and various projects parents have both a voice in, or can play an active role in, shaping the direction and effectiveness of the school. The P&F works to build a sense of community and engagement. It contributes to the College facilities through fundraising. Funds raised by the P&F Association are of enormous benefit to students of the College. Classroom resources, Air-conditioning, sporting equipment and playground facilities are but a few that the P&F support. The Our Lady of the Southern Cross College P&F has contributed \$74000 to improve resources and facilities in 2009.

### ***Our Lady of the Southern Cross College Board***

St Joseph's Parish School Education Board was established in October 1999 and has now been renamed the Our Lady of the Southern Cross College Board. The Board meets monthly to discuss the educational needs of the College and the wider Parish community. The Board is responsible for financial, pastoral and facility planning and decision making in the areas of Policy making, provision and maintenance of School Buildings and Plant, Budgeting, Communication and Curriculum.

### ***Newsletters***

A College Newsletter, the "Southern Cross Connection" is compiled and issued on the basis of one per family every Wednesday of the school year. We consider this a very important communication link with parents. This is also available on the school website at [www.dalby.catholic.edu.au](http://www.dalby.catholic.edu.au) or alternatively a copy can be emailed to you upon request.

Be up-to-date with all the happenings, projects and plans that constitute the life of the school. Please look for your copy each week.

### ***Children's Progress***

Throughout the year there will be opportunities for parents to meet teachers on a one-to-one basis, to discuss each child's progress.

Parents should feel free to approach the teachers at any time outside of school hours to discuss their child's progress. It is best to make an appointment if the matter may take some time.

## ***Learning Support***

The College is very fortunate to have the services of two highly qualified Learning Support Teachers. The area of learning support includes the assessment and support of children with special needs. The programmes undertaken by this teacher, in consultation with individual class teachers, are necessary and vital to the development of children who require them. Children are referred to the Learning Support Teacher by the classroom teacher or the Deputy Principal – Junior School and Deputy Principal - Senior School. Classroom teachers are able to work with our Learning Support staff to enhance their curriculum delivery so all ability levels and student needs are met. Along with the College based support staff we also access and facilitate sessions with a Student Counsellor, Occupational Therapist and Advisory visiting teachers.

## **SCHOOL HOURS** ***Length of School Day***

### **Junior and Secondary**

School commences at **8.50 am** for all year levels and closes at **3.10 pm** for all year levels.

As parents, you need to make the necessary arrangements to have children collected promptly at these times please. We would be grateful for your help in this respect.

Morning Bell	8.50 am	1 <sup>st</sup> bell
	8.55 am (Secondary)	2 <sup>nd</sup> bell
Snack Attack	Between 9.30 am – 10.00 am	
Lunch Recess	11.10 am-11.50 am	
Afternoon Recess	1.50pm – 2.10 pm	
Dismissal	3.10pm	

“It is our intention that all personal, sensitive and health information of students, parents/guardians, staff and prospective employees (considered “consumers” under the Act) is to be private and only used for those purposes the information was collected and recorded for so as to fulfil the mission and directions of the Catholic Dioceses of Toowoomba.

The Diocese intends to collect personal information in a fair and lawful manner. Prior to the collection of information, the purpose of the collection will be disclosed. Sensitive information will not be collected unless the consumer has consented, it is required by law, or in other specified circumstances (eg: health and safety). Information held in relation to its consumers includes, but is not limited to details of children and their parents and/or guardians, personal background matters, contribution to fundraising and work history including references.

# COLLEGE UNIFORM

## ***Introduction:***

The College uniform is a compulsory component associated with the enrolment of all students at Our Lady of the Southern Cross College. The College uniform is a sign of unity and belonging for students and therefore must be worn in its entirety with respect and pride. Failure to wear the uniform appropriately indicates a lack of respect for self, family and College.

## **Prep:**

- College sports shirt
- College sports shorts or skorts for girls
- Sandals (summer)
- White ankle high socks
- Black or white joggers (optional for summer, mandatory for winter)
- College hat
- College zip-front jumper
- College track suit

## **Junior Girls (Yrs 1 – 5) Uniform:**

- College blouse
- College black skorts
- Black slacks (winter)
- College zip-front jumper
- White ankle high socks
- Black leather joggers or black leather, lace-up dress shoes
- College hat

## **Senior Girls (Yrs 6 – 12)Uniform:**

- College blouse
- College black double box pleat skirt, knee length
- College tie (winter)
- White ankle high socks
- Black 70 denier tights (winter)
- Black leather, lace-up dress shoes
- College hat
- College pullover

## **Junior Boys (Yrs 1 – 5) Uniform:**

- College shirt
- Black shorts / long trousers
- College long socks to be worn with shorts.
- Black socks to be worn with long trousers.
- Black leather joggers or black leather, lace-up dress shoes
- College hat
- College zip-front jumper

## **Senior Boys (Years 6 – 12) Uniform**

- College shirt
- College tie (winter)
- Formal shorts or long trousers
- Black leather school belt
- College long socks to be worn with shorts.
- Black socks to be worn with long trousers.
- Black leather, lace-up dress shoes
- College hat
- College pullover

## **Sports Uniform (all year levels):**

- College sports shirt
- College sports shorts

- White sports socks
- Predominately black or predominantly white lace-up joggers
- College hat
- College zip-front jumper / College tracksuit pants or College tracksuit (Junior students)
- College tracksuit or (College pullover and College track suit bottoms.)

**Jewellery:**

*Girls*

- 1 sleeper / stud per ear lobe ( no other piercing)
- 1 watch
- A plain cross / crucifix or other Christian religious symbol on a chain

*Boys*

- 1 watch
- A plain cross / crucifix or other Christian religious symbol on a chain

**Hair:**

- Hairstyles are to be conventional and tidy.
- Hair must not to obscure vision. Female students with long hair must pin or tie it back with a black, red and / or white ribbon or scrunchie
- Hair is to be the student's natural colour

**Free Dress Days – Dress Code:**

The basic principles:

1. Be Sun Smart
2. Be safe
3. Be modest
4. Respect the ethos of the College

This means:

- Appropriate symbols and images on clothes
- No exposed shoulders –tops must have cap sleeves
- No low necklines, exposed midriffs or low-ride pants
- Hair tied back for practical lessons
- Footwear must be enclosed eg flat heeled shoes, sneakers, boots and definitely no thongs or scuffs
- Skirts, tailored shorts and dresses should be of a reasonable length for modesty
- Clothing must be clean and in good repair

**Additional expectations:**

- Make-up is not to be worn at school (medical exceptions to be raised with Deputy Principal)
- Piercings are prohibited, other than the one sleeper / stud per ear lobe for female students as noted above in jewellery
- Tattoos and body art are prohibited. Students must not write on any part of their bodies or uniform.
- College Hats must be worn between classes and during breaks as per the Sun Smart policy

Senior students may wear their School Jersey with Sports uniform only

## FEES AND LEVIES

When you decide to educate your children at our College, you enter into and agree to the school's School Fee and Levy Arrangements. Because we have limited Government funding, we are compelled to devise a school fee system that ensures our very survival. We are a non-profit organisation and do keep the fees to an absolute minimum. However, at the same time, they must be high enough to ensure that we can provide both the services and the resources necessary for the best possible education for our children.

The fees are spent in the following ways:-

- Wages –Library Aides, Teacher Aides, Relief Teachers, Tuckshop Conveners, School Cleaners, Grounds and Maintenance Personnel;
- Purchasing, replacement and repairs of all school equipment – Audio Visual Equipment, Furniture, etc;
- Resources – Teacher, classroom and curriculum resources, sports equipment, library books, musical instruments and tapes, computer software, etc;
- Photocopying needs and paper;
- Electricity, phone, rates, excess water and general running expenses; and
- Development of our computer network, lease costs, expenses related to internet use, etc.

The Parents and Friends Association supports the school in the purchase of some of these school resources.

Due to the extensive building program that Our Lady of the Southern Cross College has been involved in over recent years, it is of utmost importance that all families pay the School Building Fund levy. The Parish has taken on an extensive debt to enable us to build new classrooms and it is imperative that monies are forthcoming to ensure premiums are met.

As you can appreciate the school “expense” burden is one that we all must share in justice and fairness. It is now the policy of the school and parish that every family attend to their school fee and levies obligation. Families experiencing genuine difficulty are requested to seek an appointment with the Financial Manager to discuss their situation and work out a mutually satisfactory arrangement. Simply neglecting or ignoring school accounts will not be tolerated.

The school offers various methods of payment of school fees – cash, cheque, EFTPOS, credit card and direct debit. These choices make your payment much more manageable and keep your contribution up to date. Please contact the College Office for more details.

Travel outside Dalby, excursions, retreats, camps and tours are not included in the fee schedule.

A copy of Our Lady of the Southern Cross Education Board “Fees Policy” can be obtained from the School Office.

## **2018 Our Lady of the Southern Cross College fees are:**

Preparatory to Year 6	1st child	\$1,715.00	per annum
	2nd child	\$1,372.00	per annum
	3rd and subsequent child	\$1,029.00	per annum
	4 <sup>th</sup> child	\$ 686.00	per annum
	5 <sup>th</sup> and subsequent	\$ 343.00	per annum
Years 7 - 12	1st child	\$2,441.00	per annum
	2nd child	\$1,953.00	per annum
	3rd and subsequent child	\$1,465.00	per annum
	4 <sup>th</sup> child	\$ 976.00	per annum
	5 <sup>th</sup> and subsequent	\$ 488.00	per annum
Industrial Technology Levy (for Year 11 & 12 students)		\$200.00	per annum
Industrial Technology Levy (for Year 10 students)		\$120.00	per annum
OLSCC Building Fund Levy <u>per family</u>		\$435.00	per annum
P & F Special Projects Levy <u>per family</u>		\$100.00	per annum
Enrolment Application		\$ 30.00	

*Please note, there will be a small fee increase in 2019.*

### Additional 2018 excursion costs

Parents and caregivers will be notified of costs for day excursions, depending on the year level and proximity. Letters, medical and permission forms will be sent home listing final details.

Fee instalment payments can be arranged through Administration by the following methods:

Direct Debit Request

Recurrent Payment by Credit Card

Direct Deposit to: BSB: 064 786 Account: 513166001