

Enrolment FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions



What years does St Patrick's College enrol boys?

St Patrick's College enrolls boys from Years 7-12 either as day students or boarders. The College typically enrolls up to 250 boys in the Year 7 cohort with many families residing in Ballarat and regional areas. Boarding offers full time, weekly and flexi boarding options from Years 7-12 for boys from around Australia and internationally.

When do I need to enrol my son?

When your son is in Grade 4 it is an ideal time to start researching where you and your son would like to pursue secondary education. Of course, if you would like to enrol earlier this is also welcomed. The closing date for Year 7, 2022 Enrolment is Friday December 4, 2020. Applications are now completed online at the College website. Each prospective student must have an enrolment interview. The interview process will be held from November 2020 through to March 2021. Interviews are conducted by a member of the College Leadership Team.

How do I apply?

Applying for enrolment to the College is done online at www.stpats.vic.edu.au/prospective-families/enrolment-process. Parents will be required to set up a parent login and from there the process is very user friendly and will prompt you for the required information. Parents can upload the required documents of Birth Certificate, Catholic Sacramental certificates (if applicable), school reports, Grade 5 NAPLAN and visa and passport information through this portal.

Who is the College point of contact for enrolment?

The Registrar is the first point of contact for all enrolment enquiries and can assist you throughout the entire process of enrolling your son at the College. Please contact the Registrar at enrolments@stpats.vic.edu.au

We are not Catholic, should we still apply?

Yes. St Patrick's College has an inclusive enrolment policy. A condition of enrolment however is that parents and students value the Catholic ethos and that all students participate in Religious Education classes from Years 7-12. Students are also expected to participate in whole school celebrations.

Will my son be required to study Religious Education even if he is not Catholic?

Yes. St Patrick's College is proudly a Catholic school and as such Religious Education is a part of the curriculum from Years 7-12. All students, regardless of their religious background, must participate in Religious Education classes. There are various pathways of Religious Education in Years 11 and 12 and students are guided as to which is the best pathway for them during Subject Selection interviews. The College also devotes significant resources towards its Social Justice Program. We do ask all boys to be supportive and abide by the Catholic ethos and this means participating in Religious Education classes, Mass and College celebrations.





I would love to view the College, how can I arrange this?

Group Tours are offered on a Friday morning at 9am and take in all learning areas of the College, such as Food Technology, Woodwork, Metalwork, Art Faculty, Band Room, Junior, Middle and Senior School and the sporting grounds. To book a tour please click on [this link](#) below where you can select a date which suits your family. Tours are conducted by a member of staff and you will also receive the opportunity to meet a member of the Leadership team on arrival. Tours run for approximately one hour.

Alternatively, if a Friday morning does not suit your family, please contact the College Registrar by calling 5322 4449.

A Virtual Tour is available via the College website at [this link](#).

Do I need to pay an enrolment application fee?

Yes. All families are required to pay the \$50 Application fee which is payable at the time of lodging the application. Payment is done via credit card at the completion of the online enrolment process. If you do not wish to pay this way, please contact the College Front Reception on 5331 1688.

My family has had relations attend the College, how do I let you know?

The online enrolment application will ask you if you have had relations attend the College and you can list them in order of attendance. The Enrolment Team will then look into this and add the relations to your son's application. This is a great way for us to learn of your family's history with the College.

What documents do you require along with the application?

We require a copy of your son's Birth Certificate, Catholic sacraments (if applicable) as well as copies of the two most recent school reports and NAPLAN. The reports and NAPLAN will be referred to at the enrolment interview so please make sure we have copies of these documents.

Can I apply to more than one secondary College?

Yes, you can. We encourage families to look at all secondary schools for their boys and if you are unsure, you may wish to apply for more than one school. Please note that this does not have any adverse impact on your son's application.

When does enrolment for Year 7 in 2022 close?

Applications close on Friday December 4, 2020. Applications received after this date may be disadvantaged. All applicants are offered the opportunity to attend an enrolment interview which will be conducted in November 2020 when your son is in Year 5 or February and March in 2021 when your son is in Year 6. Only one interview is required.

When are the Enrolments Interviews held?

Once we have received and processed your son's application, we will be in contact to arrange an enrolment interview for your family. There are two enrolment interview schedules. The first is offered in November, when your son is in Year 5. The second schedule is offered in February and March, when your son is in Grade 6. Families only need to attend ONE interview. Interview bookings are scheduled via School Interviews and it is the parent's responsibility to book the interview time.

The interview is conducted with a member of the Leadership Team and will address questions to both the parents and the student.

When do I find out if my son has been offered a place?

Offers of enrolment will be emailed periodically through the interview timeframe with the final offers to be sent on the final day of Term 1, 2021. Families accepting their son's place will be required to respond in writing within a fortnight of receiving the offer and are required to pay a \$1000 fee to secure the place. This is a non-refundable fee. \$750 of this fee will be deducted from your Term 1 fees in 2022 while the remaining \$250 provides life membership for your son to the St Patrick's College Old Collegians Association.



Is there a fee to confirm my sons place at the College?

Yes. To secure your son's place families are required to pay a \$1000 confirmation. This is a non-refundable fee. \$750 of this fee will be deducted from your Term 1 fees in 2022 while the remaining \$250 provides life membership for your son to the St Patrick's College Old Collegians Association.

What about Orientation Day?

A Year 7 Orientation Day is offered to all incoming Year 7 students on the first Tuesday in December from 9am-2pm and we strongly encourage all students to attend. On this day, students will learn which class they will be in, take a tour of the College, undertake music instrumental testing and enjoy meeting their classmates.

Will my son be required to undertake any testing?

Yes, all finalised Year 7 students are required to participate in Literacy and Numeracy Testing which is held in the month of October prior to your son commencing. The testing is online and informs staff on the literacy and numeracy abilities of your son. The College will be in contact with all families to arrange a time for your son.

My son has a special need. Can I speak to a member of staff about this?

Certainly. We encourage parents if they have any queries or concerns about their son's special needs to make contact with the Learning and Enhancement Coordinator. Please make contact with the Registrar in the first instance on 5322 4449 or enrolments@stpats.vic.edu.au



How do I apply for a Scholarship for my son?

Scholarships are offered for incoming Years 7, 10 and 11 students each year and are offered in a variety of categories including Academic, General Excellence, Leadership, Sport, Music, Performing Arts and Art. All students who register will be required to sit the Academic Testing for approximately three hours which tests literacy, numeracy, problem solving and creative thinking. Categories of Music, Art and Performing Arts requires further assessment and an interview will be arranged with your family following the academic testing.

There are no set number of scholarships offered and the award is a percentage of the College Tuition fee at the discretion of the Principal. Two testing dates are offered in 2021, being Saturday, February 20 and Friday, July 9. The Scholarship program is offered to students a year in advance of their enrolment.

For example, if your son is applying for a place in Year 7 for 2022 and you wish for him to participate in the scholarship program, he will sit the testing in either February or July in 2021.

Registration is online and can be accessed via the College website at [this link](#).

Where can I purchase the College uniform?

The College uniform is available for purchase only at the College Shop, located adjacent to Front Reception. The College Shop is open from 8.15 am to 3.45 pm and appointments are not necessary. Staff will fit your son's uniform, both summer and winter, as well as the P.E Uniform. Stationery items are also available for purchase by students at the College Shop. Shop Manager, Michelle Roberts can be contacted at mroberts@stpats.vic.edu.au or 5322 4315. Please also ask about the lay-by system.

How much should a Year 7 Uniform fit out cost?

The College Uniform will cost a new incoming student between \$600-\$700. Please click [this link](#) to view the uniform requirements and price list.

Do you have a Canteen?

We sure do! The Canteen is offered to all students from Years 7-12 and is open from Monday to Friday each week. To help the new Year 7 boys in their transition, we have a separate Canteen line just for them. Boys can select from health fruit and yoghurt, sandwiches, wraps and salad rolls or pick up a hot pastry of pie, pastie, pasta bowl or soup. The Canteen operates on a 'Tap and Go' payment system and this will be the only payment method accepted at the Canteen.

Students wishing to pre-order lunch items which are required to be made on-site, such as salad rolls etc, can do so before 4pm on the day prior via the Ultimate Schools online booking system.

Please visit [this link](#) to find out more on the Canteen.

What IT devices will my son need and how do I purchase them?

The St Patrick's College vision for eLearning is to provide technology-enriched learning opportunities which enable students to achieve high-quality learning outcomes, preparing them for further education and training and to live and work in a digital world.

Year 7 students will be using their laptop to access the significant majority of the required textbooks and online resources. An eResource charge will be added to the tuition statement for your son.

The Junior School 1:1 Program will see the introduction of a Windows-based laptop. The program is similar to our successful Senior School program and reflects the current learning needs of the junior boys, as well as establishing continuity for them when transitioning to the Senior Program at the start of Year 10. The convertible touchscreen laptop selected will support and further your son's learning throughout his three years from Years 7-9.

The College has selected the Lenovo ThinkPad Yoga L390 as the Year 7 device. The ThinkPad Yoga L390 is a convertible touchscreen laptop.

At the commencement of Year 10 students begin the Senior Device program and will enter a new agreement.

If you have any queries regarding payment of the laptop device, please contact the College Finance Office.

Students will participate in a Laptop Boot Camp at which they will receive and be instructed in the set-up and use of the laptop. Students will also cover a variety of other topics over the course of the day including backing-up the laptop, digital citizenship, ergonomics and digital literacy at the Boot Camp and in Pastoral Care sessions.

What will be the annual school fees in 2022?

The annual school fees for 2022 are yet to be finalised, however please find below the Tuition fees for 2020:

Years	All Students Tuition	Boarding Weekly	Boarding Full Time	Boarding Flexi
7 & 8	\$6,300	\$14,840	\$17,425	\$66
9 & 10	\$6,700	\$16,765	\$19,680	\$74
11 & 12	\$7,100	\$19,270	\$22,600	\$85

Are there other additional fees I need to be aware of?

Additional fees for the student account include:

Capital Fee: \$890 per family;

Resources fee: \$290 (Year 7);

Device Fee: \$440 over three years (7-9);

IT Levy: \$75 each student;

Booklist

Uniform: \$600-\$700

Additional student costs such as Music lessons.

Please view a more detailed Fee structure at [this link](#).

Do things like excursions, camps, school trips cost extra?

Excursions, camps and retreats are predominantly inclusive of the College Fees. Overseas Tours come with an extra charge as these are an extra-curricular activity.





Is there a Year 7 Camp?

Yes. The Year 7 Camp is an important part of the transition experience and all students in Year 7 will attend a one-night stay at Log Cabin Lodge located in Creswick. The Camp is a way for new Year 7 students to transition into St Patrick's College. The Camp is a great ice-breaker where the boys will learn the College War Cry, make friends and, most of all, have fun.

What types of Overseas Tours does the College offer?

The College offers a rewarding and educational Overseas Tours Program. Tours include a UK and Ireland Tour offered every three years, a USA Basketball Tour offered bi-annually, a World War Europe Tour, a Kokoda Track experience as well as language trips to Japan.

I really want to send my son to St Patrick's College but I am unsure if I can afford it. What should I do?

It is important to have open communication with the College if you are unsure of the financial impact on your family's budget. If you think that there could be some financial difficulty to send your son to St Patrick's College, please make contact with the Registrar at enrolments@stpats.vic.edu.au who will make an appointment for you to see the Business Manager to discuss some options for your family.

What factors are used when determining who is offered a place?

There are many factors at play when determining offers of place for students. The Criteria of Enrolment encompasses such factors as where your son currently attends school, whether or not he is baptised and completed his sacramental program and place of residency in the Ballarat Diocese. Family relations are also a factor in determining offers.

The enrolment interview also plays a major role in determining places at the College.

What is involved in the Music program?

The classroom Music program is complemented by Ensemble Music where each Year 7 student is allocated and learns a concert band instrument. All Year 7 students are asked to submit a Musical Instrument Preference prior to Orientation Day, where we will use Samba Testing to gauge each boy's ability.

Parents are invited to a Musical Performance to hear their son play at the conclusion of the program.

Do you offer private music lessons?

Yes we do. For students who would like to take up the opportunity of private music lessons, these are offered during class time and are one on one.

The lessons run for half an hour and are charged at a rate of \$35 per lesson.

Will I have to buy a music instrument?

No. The musical instrument is provided by the College and is covered in the tuition fee, so as such there is no 'extra' cost associated with the program. Students are required to return the instrument at the conclusion of the school year.

Will my son learn a second language at the College?

Yes. Japanese is a required subject in the Year 7 and 8. Students entering Year 9 have the option of continuing with Japanese, or selecting a different subject as part of the electives program. Year 7 students identified as requiring further literacy support, study Linguistics instead of Japanese.

Students can study Japanese until Year 12.

Can I request my son is placed in a class with his friend?

Yes. We can consider the requests put forward from families that their son be placed in a class with a friend, it this supports the transition process for both students. To make this request, please contact the Registrar at enrolments@stpats.vic.edu.au The Director of Junior School and his team will then consider the request.



Pastoral Care at St Patrick's College?

The Pastoral Care program provides a sequenced curriculum from Year 7 to 12, focused on developing the whole person, with the broad objective of developing and enhancing student work ethic, behaviour, resilience, and academic results.

The Year 7 Pastoral Care Program provides the following key areas for each term:

Term 1: Building Resilience

Term 2: Keeping Safe

Term 3: Let's Stop Bullying

Term 4: Cybersafety

To find out more about our extensive Pastoral Care program, please visit [this link](#).

Do you have School Counsellors?

Yes, the College has a great team of School Counsellors who support the boys and their families on their journey over their time at the College. The Counselling team operates under the Deputy Principal, Wellbeing.

What is the House system at St Patrick's College?

The House System at the College consists of four Houses - Nunan, Ryan, Galvin and Keniry. When your son is enrolled he will be awarded a place in one House which will then carry through until Year 12. When younger siblings enrol, they will be placed in the same House as their brother.



How do I communicate with the College?

The College uses the Parent Access Module which encompasses absentees, school reports, permission forms, bookings for Parent Teacher Interviews, updating medical information etc.

Parents are issued with a login and Password at the commencement of the year and parents are to keep this private. The PAM is an invaluable system for parents and staff to communicate together. Of course, if you wish to speak to a member of the Teaching or Administrative staff please don't hesitate to call the College on 5331 1688 or email info@stpats.vic.edu.au and a member of staff will assist you with your enquiry.

The College published a fortnightly e-newsletter which is emailed to all students and parents, as well as a glossy magazine, The Shamrock, which is published once a semester.