

Parent Information Booklet 2017



Year Four

Joy In Learning



ST JOHN BOSCO
COLLEGE



Year Four Philosophy

The curriculum at St John Bosco College from Kindergarten to Year 4 will be based on the Western Australian Curriculum and the Early Years Learning Framework “Belonging, Being and Becoming”. There will be a balance between tasks based on the children’s interests and explicit teaching of the curriculum, with a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy. Students will be provided with opportunities to develop their thinking skills by problem solving with real life situations using innovation, shared collaboration and digital technology.

Image of the Child

We believe that each child is a unique individual who needs to develop emotionally, intellectually, physically and socially.

We believe in building a respectful and nurturing relationship with each individual child so they feel valued and heard.

We believe our actions, attitude and teaching nurtures children to apply Gospel teachings and values in all they do.

The Learning Process

We believe in engaging children in authentic inquiry based learning and open-ended tasks so they can reach their full potential.

We believe in preparing our students to be active and informed citizens in an ever-changing world.

We believe our students are adaptive and exploratory learners who can apply their learning and understanding in different contexts, in different ways.

We believe that all students can be curious, creative, critical, reflective and independent thinkers.

Environment

We believe that the innovative learning spaces we create will inspire deep, purposeful and authentic learning experiences.

We believe in creating a safe, contemporary, collaborative, technologically rich learning environment that focuses on a child-centered approach to learning.

We believe in establishing learning environments that are flexible, fluid areas designed to support the individual needs of the students, inspiring a joy and passion for lifelong learning.

Partnership

We believe that partnerships are built on trust, respect and honesty.

We strive to build relationships with families and other agencies, based on co-operation and a mutual respect for the reciprocal roles that each play in the lives of the child, recognising that families are the children’s first and most influential educators.

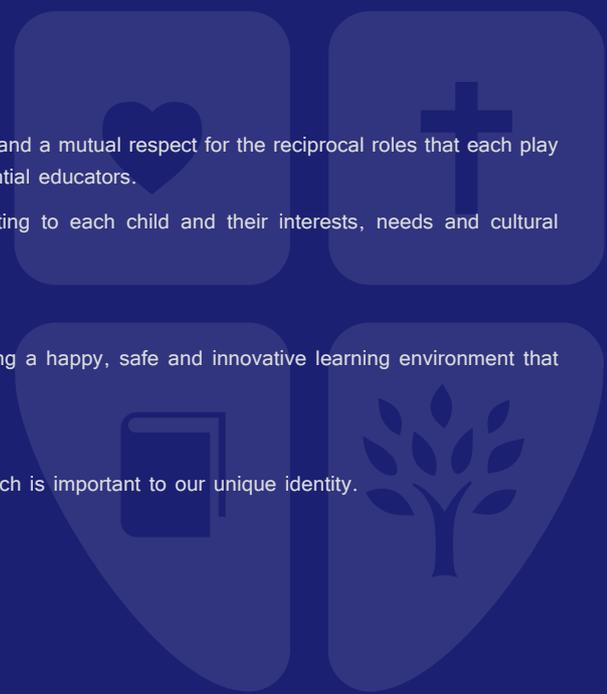
We believe that partnerships with families provide us with invaluable information relating to each child and their interests, needs and cultural backgrounds.

Community

We believe that all members of our College community are equal contributors in creating a happy, safe and innovative learning environment that promotes continual growth and change.

We believe in the importance of an inclusive community that embraces diversity.

We believe in supporting many cultures and creating an atmosphere of acceptance, which is important to our unique identity.



Everything you need to know about Year Four

College Day

Studio opens:	8:30am
Start of College day:	8:40am
Recess:	10:30 – 10:50 am
Lunch:	12:30 – 1:10 pm
End of College day:	3:00pm

Attendance

If a student is to be absent from the College for any reason, a parent/guardian needs to email the College Administration on absentee@stjohnbosco.wa.edu.au before 9.00am on the day of absence.

If it is not possible to email, a telephone call to the College Administration is required before 9.00am but must be followed with an email. An SMS message to parents/guardians will be generated for all absences unexplained by **9.30am**. If your child is ill please keep them at home to recover. This will minimise the risk of infection to other children. If your child becomes ill at the College we will contact you or other emergency contacts that you have nominated for your child. Please ensure that all College records and the admin staff are kept up to date with any changes in contact details. We do require a written note or email either on return or prior to the day of absence.

Birthdays

Parents are advised not to send in any treat or party favours on their child's birthday. Rest assured we will certainly celebrate them and their special day in the classroom. In this way families are released of the cost of providing items for the whole class which can be an unnecessary cost and not affordable for all families.

Recess and Lunch

St John Bosco College encourages a healthy lunchbox and bottle of water each day and would like to see your children bring in foods that will energise them and keep them alert and ready to learn. Please support us by sending your child to the College with healthy, nutritious snacks and lunches.

At recess we would like to see:

- Fresh fruit and/or vegetables
- Yogurt
- Cheese
- Pikelets
- Crackers
- Plain milk

At lunch we would like to see:

- Sandwich or wrap
- Left overs or homemade meals
- More fruit and/or vegetables
- Dips
- Lean meats

Please refrain from sending any of the following items in lunchboxes:

- Packets of chips or other types such as Twisties etc.
- Chocolate – in any form (bars, cakes, biscuits)
- Juice boxes or cordials
- Flavoured milk
- Nut products (including Nutella, bags of nuts or nut bars)
- Lollies

We would appreciate it if all treats were saved for after the College day or at home so the children can see continuity amongst their lunchboxes as well.

* Please note that if your child has special dietary requirements the necessary staff are aware of this.

Hat

Please ensure that your child has their College hat each day. During the summer months, please apply sunscreen to your child's arms, legs and face before school. We are a Sun Smart College and have a 'No hat, play in the shade' policy.

Children's Property

Please ensure that your child comes to the College in the correct College uniform each day and that all of their property is clearly labelled with your child's first and last name, to avoid any lost property. The Year Four students need to wear their academic uniform on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and their sports uniform on Tuesday and Friday each week (unless notified for special College events). Please encourage children to leave toys and treasured items at home to avoid distress of loss or damage at the College.

Independence

Please encourage your child to develop independence and responsibility for themselves in Year Four by making sure that they:

- Carry their own school bag.
- Organise their belongings each day on their arrival into the classroom.

Morning Routine

The classroom door will open at **8.30am** every day. This is an opportunity for your child to unpack their bag and organise themselves for the day. Once they are organised they can complete a morning activity with a friend. Please ensure that the children remain with you along the verandahs until the studio door has been opened. Our learning day will commence at **8.40am**.

The morning is a very important part of your child's day, and we ask that you make every effort for them to be at the College on time. If your child arrives to the College later than 8:45am, an adult must sign them in at the College Administration and escort them to their class. A note will be given to your child to pass to the teacher to

show that they have been signed in.

Classroom Management

Students will be encouraged to participate and contribute to all aspects of their learning, and will be given the democratic right to negotiate rules, positive and negative consequences. We believe this contributes to a sense of ownership and responsibility for their own learning and behaviour and encourages accountability.

The staff at St John Bosco College continually model the skills, behaviours and attitudes we expect of the students, with reference to the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. With support and involvement from parents and the College community, we reinforce these as being reflective of the ideals and expectations of the wider society. We reinforce positive behaviour and encourage reflection on undesirable behaviour. All students will be treated fairly. Ongoing problems or issues of concern will be discussed confidentially with parents.

Religion

Religious Education is the first learning area in the Catholic school curriculum. There are eight Religious Education Units of Work that will be covered throughout the year. At St John Bosco College we are building upon the example of how Jesus lived using 'The Fruits of the Holy Spirit'.

Literacy

The Literacy programme in Year Four address the areas of Language, Literature and Literacy as outlined in the Western Australian Curriculum. Reading, Writing, Viewing, Speaking and Listening are integrated across all learning areas, and are also explicitly taught during Literacy lessons. The reading component is designed to develop students' ability to gain meaning from the text, with a focus on comprehension skills and strategies, language structures and conventions. Students are exposed to a variety of genres, including fiction and non-fiction texts. Daily reading is facilitated in the classroom and expected as part of the purposeful practice routine at home, with the aim being to further develop oral expression and fluency when reading aloud. Students are also encouraged to read for pleasure.

Writing is an imperative component of the Literacy programme and is practised and incorporated into activities across all learning areas. The skills of brainstorming ideas, planning and writing recounts, reports, persuasive texts, procedures, journal writing and narratives are developed throughout the year. To assist with writing skills, formal grammar, spelling and handwriting lessons are also an integral part of the Year Four Literacy programme. Students work in groups of various sizes, which change regularly, to suit individual needs and tasks, to provide opportunities for the children to work collaboratively, learn from each other and further their language development.

We will inform you of the key understandings we will focus on each term.

Numeracy

The Year Four Numeracy programme is designed to actively engage the children in mathematical understanding and applications. Thorough explicit explanations are complemented with hands-on learning. This assists students in developing their understanding of mathematical concepts and problem solving skills, and demonstrating fluency as well as mathematical literacy. Students are made aware that mathematics occurs in daily life through integrating mathematical problems into classroom conversation.

Throughout the year the students will explore mathematical concepts as outlined in the Western Australian Curriculum and develop understanding and skills that relate to number and algebra, fractions, decimals, money, patterns, measurement, geometry, shape, location and transformation, chance and data. Mental strategies will also be developed.

We will inform you of the key understandings we will focus on each term.

Technology

In Year One to Year Four the students are required to bring their own iPad or iPad air to class each day. Information regarding the apps required for learning will be provided to you early in Term One.

iPad minimum requirements:

- iOS7
- 32GB

- Powerful apps included at no additional cost (iMovie, Pages, Keynote, Garage Band)

If students already have an iPad or iPad Air, there is no need to purchase a new one. However, it is highly recommended that iPads brought to the College are set up with an individual student Apple ID (separate from any other devices that you may currently own). We kindly ask that your child's iPad is fully charged each day ready for learning.

Purposeful Practice

We believe in children being involved in purposeful practice at home where they revise literacy and numeracy skills that have been focused on in class in a 'hands on' and interactive manner. In Year Four, each child is expected to complete 20 minutes of practice each weeknight.

Reading

The children will be sent home with a levelled reading book and are expected to read for 15 minutes each night. Home reading should not be competitive or laboured, instead the emphasis should always be on the enjoyment of reading, fluency and comprehension of the text. The students will need to record their reading in their diary and have it signed by a parent each night. Diaries will be checked once a week.

Spelling

A list of spelling words will be sent home each week. A spelling grid will be provided at the beginning of each term with a range of spelling activities that can be completed using your child's individual list of words. Each Friday, children will be tested on their spelling words and be given new words accordingly.

Mathematics

A maths activity that supports the area of Mathematics the students are focusing on in class at that time, will also be sent home as appropriate.

Note Folder

Each child will be given a note folder that will need to come to and from the College every day. These note folders will

include their diary, reading books and any other activities that need to be completed each week. Please check these every night for any notes that may come home as well. To help build independence, remind your child to place their note folder in their bag each day.

Assessment

Students will be assessed with a variety of formal and informal assessment tools. Self and peer assessment tools will also be employed. Not all work that the children complete is for assessment purposes and because of this some work may look as though it has not been corrected. This is not the case. All work is seen and usually anecdotal notes are taken.

Formal assessments for Literacy and Numeracy will be completed in Term 1 and Term 4. The results of these tests will be discussed with you during our Parent meetings.

Communication

Communication is a vital part of your child's education. It is important that parents and teachers maintain regular and open dialogue about the educational and social needs of your child. We encourage you to make an appointment to discuss progress or any concerns regarding your child throughout the year. Any issues or confidential information should not be discussed in front of the child or other families. A respectful demeanour is encouraged at all times. Parent interviews will be held throughout the year as needed. We will make time to meet with each parent on more than one occasion throughout the year. Email is usually the most effective way of contacting your child's classroom teacher.

We can be contacted via our College email addresses:

Year 4 Purple:

pen.celine@cathednet.wa.edu.au

Year 4 Teal:

millar.toby@cathednet.wa.edu.au

Please understand that teachers have time constraints during the College day and that issues are best dealt with when uninterrupted time and attention can be given to them. Therefore, parents and guardians should allow time for a reply to any communication.

See Saw

This year we will be integrating the Seesaw app into our Year Four classes. This program empowers students to independently document their learning by uploading photos, videos, drawings, text, PDFs, and links. It also gives families an immediate and personalised window into their child's learning each day. Parents are notified when content is uploaded to their child's profile making it easy to observe their progress and growth throughout the College year. More information will be provided to you on this program closer to the commencement of term one.

Parent Help

Parent help is very much appreciated, by teachers and students alike. An integral part of inquiry learning is seeking information and collaborating, so please share your skills and areas of expertise or employment with us. Assistance will also be welcomed for weekly reading. Further details will be sent out once all formal assessments have been completed. Confidentiality is of utmost importance while on parent help.

Special Dates

Occasion	Date
Sacrament of First Eucharist:	
Sacramental Commitment Mass	Saturday 18 February at 6:30pm @ St Francis Xavier Parish
First Eucharist Parent/Child Workshop	Thursday 25 May at 6:30pm in the Assembly Space
Year 4 First Eucharist Retreat at Schoenstatt Centre	TBC
Sacrament of First Eucharist Practise	Tuesday 25 July at 4:00pm @ St Francis Xavier Parish
Sacrament of First Eucharist	Saturday 5 August at 9:30am @ St Francis Xavier Parish