



Welcome

TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR 2019

School for our students is not just about learning. It's about the development of the individual as a whole.

Victoria's Catholic schools work with parents to enable students to explore the big questions in life with a clear vision of what is good about themselves, their relationships with family, school and friends, and the world in which they live.

This emphasis on the whole student and their wellbeing is what sets Catholic schools apart.

Archbishop of Melbourne Peter A Comensoli has spoken of 'growing young in Christ': of drawing inspiration from the optimism and energy – the spirit – of young people.

The Catholic way of learning offers unique benefits, as parents realise. It's why we are entrusted with the education of well over 200,000 students in nearly 500 schools statewide – close to one in four Victorian school students, the highest proportion of any Catholic system in the country.

It's a trust we are committed to honour and repay – with interest.

Catholic schools are committed to delivering a future return on parents' investment by developing independent learners and encouraging personal development.

A culture of care

Catholic schools know that every child (and every family) is different. That's why we focus on the individual, on cooperation and collaboration with parents to create happy, well-adjusted students and young people with the knowledge and life skills – plus the sense of purpose – needed in our increasingly complicated world.

Catholic education is striving to be a leader in child safety. We are working to build the truly inclusive school communities (where parents are partners) that research tells us improve the academic, social and emotional wellbeing of students.

Academic excellence with real-life benefits

Independent studies show how the Catholic education difference is paying dividends.

Catholic schools across Melbourne shine in literacy and numeracy – the crucial building blocks of learning

– returning results above the state average in NAPLAN tests and the Victorian Certificate of Education.

University of Melbourne research shows that a Catholic education adds an average of six ATAR points at the career-defining end of a student's school journey, while a Curtin University study has found that Australians who attended Catholic schools enjoy a wage premium of around 10%.

But academic achievement is only part of a Catholic education. The Curtin University research also found Catholic school graduates enjoy some of the highest levels of life satisfaction and happiness.

Underpinning success

We can't deliver the education your children deserve, however, without proper support from state and federal governments.

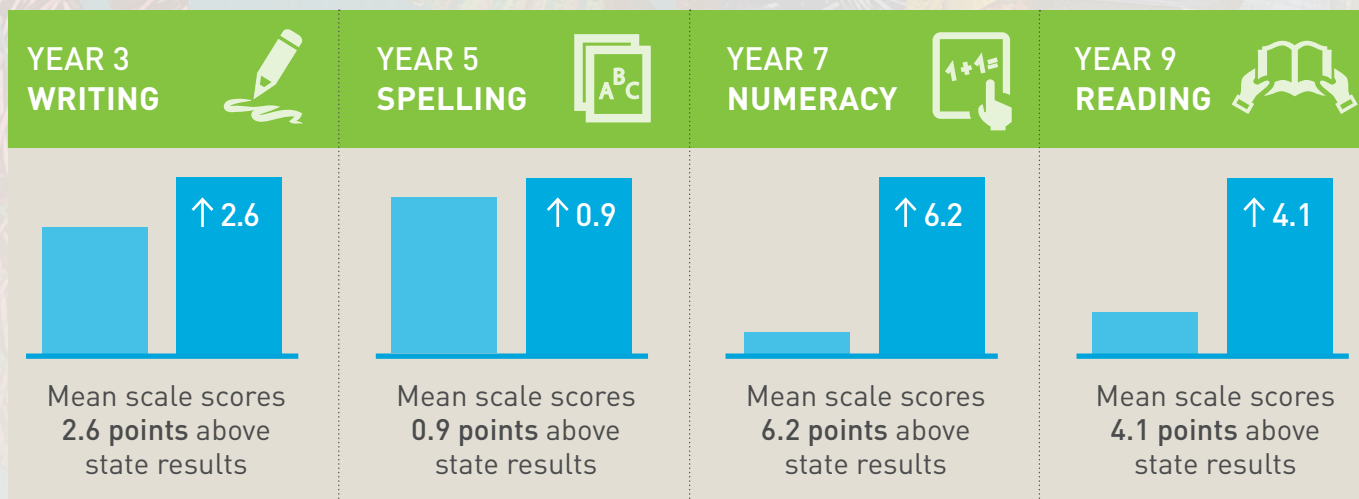
At last year's Victorian state election, both Labor and the Coalition committed to unprecedented levels of support for capital works for Catholic schools. We'll be making sure their counterparts in Canberra stick to their commitments in the lead-up to the federal election, expected in May.

Foundations for life and learning

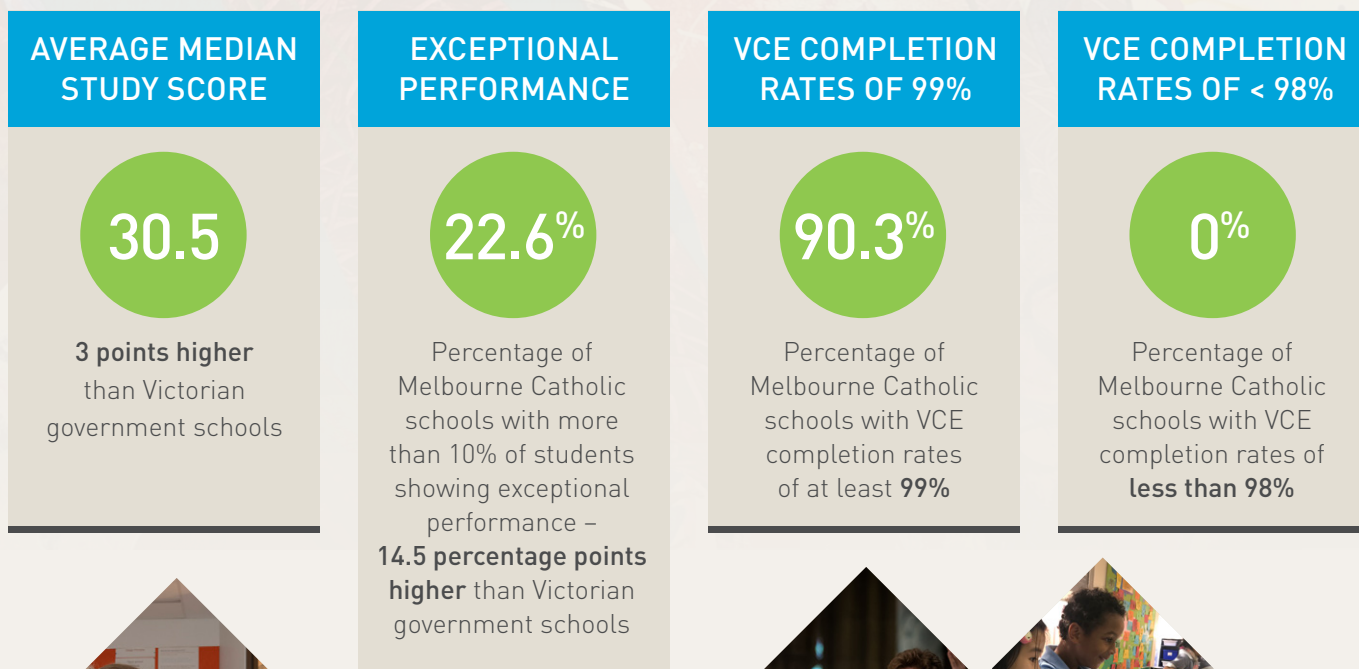
Melbourne Catholic schools continue to return outstanding academic results across all year levels, setting students up for success.

NAPLAN

A sample of 2018 NAPLAN results shows how Melbourne Catholic schools are exceeding in the four key building blocks of learning tested across the four different year groups.



2018 VCE ACHIEVEMENT



ATAR

Independent Melbourne University research shows a Catholic education adds an average of **six ATAR points** to the career-defining end of a student's journey.

6

points
higher than
government
schools

PATHWAYS TO HIGHER LEARNING

The Melbourne Institute's long-running HILDA survey has found up to 75% of parents of both primary and secondary Catholic school students reported that their child would go on to university, compared with 49% from government schools.



75%

of parents of Catholic
school students say
their children will go
to university

WAGES AND WELLBEING

A Catholic education pays real-world dividends, with a Curtin University study finding Catholic school graduates have higher incomes than their government school counterparts. The same study also found that Catholic school graduates reported higher levels of life satisfaction than those who attended government schools.

10.2%

higher
earnings

than government
school attendees



A proud history, a bright future

Academic results, affordability and strong enrolments all point to a flourishing future for Catholic education in Victoria.

We are building on a long and proud history that dates back almost to the very beginnings of European settlement in the Port Phillip Bay area.

While the face of Catholic education may have changed, as schools once dominated by Irish immigrants and their descendants have welcomed new arrivals from across Europe, the Christian communities of the Middle East, Vietnam and other Asian nations and, most recently, Africa, the principles that underpin our mission remain the same.

We are committed to providing quality, accessible, faith and values-based schooling to all those who want it.

It's clear parents appreciate the choice. The five new primary schools opened around the greater Melbourne area in 2018 have been followed by two more this year. 2020 will see the opening of our first new Catholic secondary college in a decade and, in the first few years of the coming decade, it's expected to be followed by as many as two more secondary schools and nine new primaries.

Catholic schools are seen as more than places of education, but vital community hubs – centres that provide a sense of certainty and purpose and enduring values as Melbourne's population booms.

A Catholic education develops engaged and purposeful young people able to thrive and make a difference in our complex twenty-first century world – even though total government recurrent and capital funding for Catholic schools nationally is almost 20% lower than for the government sector.

Last year parent power enabled us to overturn the former Turnbull government's unfair funding policies that threatened the future of all too many Catholic schools.

Both the Coalition and Labor governments are committed to new and more efficient funding mechanisms that ensure Catholic education receives appropriate support.

As we approach the federal election (expected in May) and after, we will be working with school communities to ensure the major parties honour their promises so the affordable, accessible, quality Catholic education we all value can continue to make its contribution to the community.



WELCOME TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOR 2019



Catholic Education Week

Growing Young in Christ

Join us from 10–17 March when we celebrate our proud history with Catholic Education Week, embracing the theme 'Growing Young in Christ'.

School communities from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne will come together for events recognising the spirit of the young people who attend our primary and secondary schools.

The week will climax with the Mass for Schools on 15 March, followed by the ever-popular Concert in the Park in nearby Treasury Gardens.

Other features include the always dazzling Visual Arts Exhibition at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne, a long-established highlight of the arts education calendar, and the Young Speakers Colloquium, an opportunity for secondary students to hear about the diverse and unique life journeys former Catholic students have embarked on.

Catholic Education Week will also be marked at a local level with a wide range of events in individual schools that will enable students, staff, friends and family to come together to celebrate the spirit of their school community.

Catholic Education Today

Once a term we produce a full-colour magazine specifically for parents, *Catholic Education Today*, highlighting the day-to-day activities and achievements of our schools and students, and featuring stories and advice on everyday issues and events affecting contemporary school-age families.



We encourage anyone with ideas or suggestions on matters they would like covered to email publications@cem.edu.au.

News and views

Details of all the latest Melbourne Catholic education news and events, and most recent information and updates for parents – along with media releases – are available on our website www.cem.edu.au.

Join the conversation

Talk with us on Twitter about what's happening in Catholic education [@CEMelbourne](https://twitter.com/CEMelbourne).



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