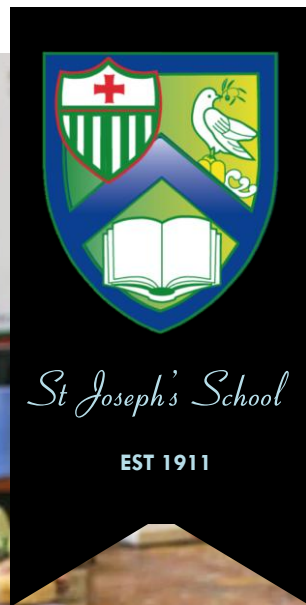




ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



YEAR 7 & 8 INFORMATION

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Sporting Activities

Students have opportunities to participate in a wide range of sporting activities. All students have regular involvement in daily fitness, physical education and the sports enrichment programme. There are additional opportunities for students wishing to become involved in inter-school activities throughout the year. Traditionally these opportunities have included: cricket, football, rugby, netball, hockey, basketball, cross-country, athletics and swimming. Our aim is to provide opportunities for as many students as possible to participate in the sport of their choice.

Cultural Activities

St Joseph's School provides its students with opportunities to learn, engage and experience Māori and Pasifika language, and cultural meanings through the traditional art of Kapa haka and Polynesian dance. Our cultural groups perform at various school events as well as the local cultural festivals throughout the year.

Additional opportunities exist for students to learn guitar, drums and violin on a 1-1 or small group basis through Goodtime Music Academy. We also have a school choir, and dance group which performs within the local community and in the Art Splash competition each year.

Student Leadership Team

Each year there are opportunities for our students to become a member of the student leadership team. These students take on additional responsibilities within the school and provide the student voice for the curriculum decisions within the year 7 & 8 syndicate.



Andrew Herrick – Principal

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WELCOME to St Joseph's Catholic School – A school with a proud history of catering for the educational, spiritual, social and emotional needs of early adolescent students in one of the most important periods in their school life. At St Joseph's School we provide a holistic education with the aim of maximizing the potential of each student. We motivate our students to be excited about their learning and become contributing, participating citizens within the school and local community.

We understand the importance of students feeling physically, emotionally and intellectually safe. Our Catholic faith provides the foundation for our positive learning environments that are built around our school values of: Determination, Respect, Creativity, Love and Excellence.

We have strong links with our local Catholic colleges – St Patrick's College (Silverstream) and Sacred Heart College (Lower Hutt) and we take great care to consider the transition of our students from St Joseph's Catholic School into these organisations as they begin their secondary school education.

Small in Size, Big in Spirit

Our students gain confidence by being part of a smaller year 7 & 8 cohort within a larger school. This nourishes their confidence and independence whilst enabling them to ascertain where their talents lie, whether they are in academic subjects, the arts or in sport.

If you want to feel safe, if you want to feel valued, if you want to feel that your opinion is important, then St Joseph's School is the school for you. We are confident that you will enjoy your time with us and that together we will do everything we can to challenge and support you in the things that matter most to you.



Students take advantage of the range of opportunities that promotes and supports interest and engagement in learning. Cultural, social and sporting activities provide scope for the development of leadership, skills and knowledge. – ERO



OUR LEARNING PROGRAMME

At St Joseph's School, your child will have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of educational opportunities. As an integrated, co-educational school, we offer programmes based on the New Zealand Curriculum and established best practice. We believe strongly in the value of sound Numeracy, Literacy and Religious Education programmes. We are then able to develop other curriculum areas, either as individual subjects or as part of our integrated curriculum approach. We believe that children learn best when they are engaged, motivated and enjoy school. Everything we do in the year 7 & 8 area is centred on this belief.



Technology Education

Technology education at St Joseph's School presents students with a range of hands-on, creative experiences in the areas of Food, Computer-Aided Design and Production, Robotics, Coding, STEAM, and Visual Arts. Our technology program is completed on-site with specialist teachers working with small groups of children on a regular basis.

Education Outside the Classroom

The school has had a long and very successful involvement in Outdoor Education. Our year 7 & 8 students currently attend school camp at Camp Kaitoke, north of Upper Hutt on a biennial basis. We believe that this is an excellent opportunity for students to challenge their physical and emotional limits whilst bonding as a class and syndicate team. The camp has proven extremely successful (and popular) with our students over the past years. As part of the lead up to camp, our students embark on a business and enterprise unit that focuses on contributing towards the costs of camp. We also seek parent support to accompany classes on these visits.

OUR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

All of our year 7 & 8 classrooms have been designed to maximise the learning opportunities for our students. This has been achieved by focusing on providing flexible teaching spaces, integrated technology and a close connection with our fantastic outdoor environment. All classrooms are equipped with chrome books, wireless internet access, chrome TV and quality sound systems. Students have daily access to a variety of additional ICT tools including, iPads, 3 D printers, laser cutters and robotics.

Student Placement

We believe that the best way to cater for all of our students is in a system of parallel classes with groups of children who have identified needs and talents coming together for specific purposes. We believe that if we structure our school in this way, continually strive to treat each child as the unique individual they are, and continually work towards providing each and every child with the educational programme appropriate to him or her, then we can, as a school, make a significant contribution to the educational opportunities and outcomes for each and every one of our students.



"Choosing St Joseph's School for an intermediate education was the best decision I could have made for my daughter. She has had all of the opportunities offered by the larger schools and more. The intermediate area has a caring community feel to it that made her feel safe and welcomed from day one"

Parent

Student Behaviour

At St Joseph's School we have a set of 'Expectations' for all students to follow. They are designed to help keep ourselves, others and our property safe. We do not accept any behaviour that is offensive, demeaning or threatening.

Each class will develop its own set of expectations for behaviour inside the classroom in consultation with their homeroom teacher. All expectations are clearly set out and explained to students to ensure understanding and ownership over future actions.