



**STAR OF THE SEA  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**ROCKINGHAM**

**PROSPECTUS**

## SCHOOL PROFILE

Star of the Sea is a Catholic Primary School catering for 730 students from Pre Kindergarten to Year 6. The school is an integral part of the Rockingham parish of Our Lady Of Lourdes and there is a very close relationship between the school and Parish.

The school is situated within the Rockingham City Council, which is a fast growing seaside district in the Perth metropolitan area. Star of the Sea is highly regarded by school and parish families and many of the students are second-generation students of the school. The community has a wide diversity of cultural backgrounds.

Star of the Sea has continued to grow rapidly and is now a three-stream school catering for children from Pre Kindergarten through to Year 6.

There are over 720 children attending the school with a staff of 60, comprising 45 teachers (full-time and part-time) and 15 non-teaching staff. The staff is hard working and committed to providing a high level of pastoral care and quality education for their students. The school's Leadership Team consists of Principal, Assistant Principal (Religious Education and Administration) and Assistant Principal (Curriculum). There are two cluster leaders (Years PK-1 and Years 2-6).

There are specialist programs in the area of Music/Performing Arts, Physical Education, Science and ICT. The school is well resourced in all.

School colours are royal blue and gold. Strict adherence to school uniform is expected. The school has its own uniform shop which opens twice per week, Mondays 2:30pm-3:30pm and Fridays 8:00am-9:30am. It is also open on certain specified days during holidays. Further contact may be made by calling on (08) 9592 9817.

The contribution of parents in the school is strongly encouraged and is a feature of the school. Parents assist teachers regularly in classrooms. There is a School Board whose duty it is to oversee the financial management of the school and the Parents and Friends Association is the body through which parents can make a more formal contribution to the life of the school.

Each year the school develops a set of priorities that focus on the following areas:

- **L**earning
- **E**ngagement
- **A**ccountability
- **D**isciplineship

All members of the school community contribute to the formulation of the annual priorities and periodic reviews are held to monitor the progress towards the achievement of the established priorities.

The school community embraces the following Vision Statement.

## *Vision Statement*

Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School models itself on the life and teachings of Jesus and seeks to reflect the Gospel values.

Our Catholic school seeks to enable students to recognise that faith is inlaid with life and calls us all to reflect God in our daily living.

Star of the Sea Primary School seeks to develop all five dimensions of the human person (intellectual, emotional, spiritual, will and physical) to enable students to realise their full potential.

Star of the Sea Primary School community recognises parents as the prime educators of their children and sees itself as a complement to the Catholic home in its efforts to develop the faith of the children.

## SCHOOL HISTORY

In 1948, the sisters of Our Lady of the Missions arrived from Busselton to Peron House in Rockingham. Peron House consisted of 44 acres and was purchased for the sisters by His Grace the Archbishop Most Reverend Dr Prendiville. It was originally a turtle-canning factory. Turtles were penned at the factory from the North West for meat and soup at the beginning of the 1900s. The enterprise fell through and Peron House was abandoned and used as a guest house prior to the sisters moving there. From 1928-1948, the turtle factory became a visitors' guest house.

In May of 1948, Peron House opened with the celebration of Holy Mass at the parish church by Reverend Father Holohan. The first pupils of Star of the Sea attended school in July. The students at Peron House or the turtle factory, as it was locally known, used to swim in the water on the waterfront at Point Peron during lunch and often after school. The school was only 50 yards from the water. Railway tracks, which were used at the turtle factory, were left at Star of the Sea and Peron House as part of the decor.

In 1972, the convent at Point Peron became too small for the use of a school and the new Star of the Sea School was built in Swinestone Street. Three sisters went to live in a house in Hillman and continued teaching at Star of the Sea Primary School. Mr Kim Beasley, Federal Minister for Education, officially opened Star of the Sea School. It was blessed by Archbishop Goody and the first Principal was Sr Catherine Brabender.

When Star of the Sea School was built in Swinestone Street there was a total of 210 pupils with 30 children in each grade. It was the only Catholic school in the Rockingham shire.

A new Administration block and Special Ed Unit was blessed and opened on 17th September 1989. In 1993, the Pre Primary section was blessed and opened for the children of Rockingham.

Star of the Sea School in Rockingham carries out the maxim of St Irenaeus, "The Glory of God is Man Fully Alive". It is in thanksgiving for the dedication and the missionary spirit that teachers or both lay and missionary have given to the education of the Catholic children of Rockingham.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The aims of the Religious Education programme at Star of the Sea School are based on the Perth Archdiocese R.E. Units. Our own school-based programme encompasses the following three points:

- Children developing a personal vision of how they can reflect God.
- Raising in children their awareness of how they develop as fully integrated human beings.
- How God helps them to become the vision and to develop a *'faith relationship'* with Christ.

Children participate in Sacramental programmes in Year 3 (Reconciliation), Year 4 (Eucharist) and Year 6 (Confirmation). Parents are an integral part of this preparation and are encouraged to assist the class teacher in any way they can. Several parent information sessions are held as part of the preparation for each sacrament and parents are strongly encouraged to attend. More information regarding the R.E. programme is available at the school. Enquiries are welcomed.

## **THREE YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN**

Star of the Sea offers a 3 Year Old Pre Kindy Education Programme that commences at the beginning of the school year. The school offers one full day session per class designed to give children who have already turned three an opportunity to participate in a Kindergarten style program in readiness for Four Year Old Kindergarten the following year.

The program is run by a qualified Early Childhood Teacher and a qualified Teacher Assistant. The maximum class size is 20 and once each session has reached its capacity there will be no more places available. Children must have already turned three before enrolment and preferably be fully toilet trained.

Children that turn three later in the year can be placed on a waiting list and will be notified of place availability once they have turned three.

## **FOUR YEAR OLD KINDERGARTEN**

There are clear and definite links between the Kindergarten programme (4 year olds) and the Pre-Primary programme (5 year olds). There is a balance between supervised group activities and play. Each class is staffed by a Teacher and a Teacher Assistant.

Children attend three full day sessions. The session times are from 8.45am until 2.50pm

The Kindergarten programme is well resourced. Children are always supervised whether they are indoors or outdoors.

## **PRE-PRIMARY**

At Star of the Sea we provide full-time Pre-Primary classes. The Pre-Primary has excellent facilities with each of our classes staffed by a teacher and an assistant. From week one the children attend full-time.

## **SPECIAL LEARNING NEEDS**

A teacher is employed to provide support for children who have special needs due to physical, intellectual, social or emotional disabilities. The Commonwealth Government funds the programme and very specific criteria must be met in order for children to be included in the programme. In general, children who have been included are taught in their mainstream class, but may be withdrawn for parts of the programme.

## **COMMUNICATION**

### **School to Parents**

- Weekly Newsletter (Fridays).
- Term Calender.
- School Website ([www.starofthesea.wa.edu.au](http://www.starofthesea.wa.edu.au))

### **Teacher to Parents**

- Permission notes for excursions and camps.
- Notes informing parents about class activities.
- Homework diary where relevant.

- Teacher/parent meetings held in Term 1.
- Parent/teacher interviews arranged at end of Term 1.

Parents wishing to discuss children's achievements or progress should make an appointment with the teacher first. This can be arranged by sending a note to the class teacher requesting a time to be organised convenient to both parties.

Parents are welcome to contact the Principal to discuss any school matters. Classroom related issues are best discussed with teachers first because invariably solutions to difficulties are found there.

## **PASTORAL CARE POLICY**

Pastoral care is the school's expression of the love of Christ for each individual and the school community as a whole, within an environment of faith and hope. It is the school's concern for the development of all individuals in its community and its ongoing response to their various needs and it involves an holistic approach centred on the human person as made in the image of God.

### **Pastoral Care**

- is an approach to education based on the development of the individual as made in the image of God.
- is founded on the vision of humanity as shown through the person and teachings of Jesus.
- implies a concern for the needs of all members of the school community, ie. students, staff and parents.
- is an expression of the living faith of the school community as evidenced in relationships, structures, policies and day to day experiences.
- is a dynamic process which requires ongoing evaluation.

## **PASTORAL CARE/DISCIPLINE**

The school has a pastoral approach to discipline that fosters self-discipline. The staff show genuine care and concern for the students in the school and this is demonstrated in the relationships between staff and students.

In the classrooms, two broad principles are applied. Firstly, each student has the right to learn and no other person can deny the student this right. This extends to the students themselves in that they are to be focused on their tasks and exercising their right to obtain a quality education. Secondly, teachers have a right, as well as a duty, to teach without distraction or disruption and no person can deny the teacher this right.

The school employs the behaviour management program 123 Magic™. It is a program that incorporates specific, gentle-but-firm techniques to stop undesirable behaviour as well as to encourage positive behaviour. Emotion Coaching is a complementary strategy to the behaviour management techniques of 123 Magic™. Emotion coaching, together with the behaviour strategies encompassed within 123 Magic™, provides teachers with a balanced approach to managing their students' behaviour while teaching them the skills to better manage their emotions and take responsibility for their own behaviour.

In the playground, it is acknowledged that every child has the right to play safely and to be respected. Positive incentives and negative consequences managed by staff support this right. These mechanisms are designed to develop responsible decisions by individuals about their behaviour.

The school employs a Psychologist 1 day per week to assist with student academic and social growth and development.

## **ACADEMIC CURRICULUM**

Teachers at Star of the Sea plan their classroom programmes using the Australian Curriculum. There is provision for tuition in Religious Education, Mathematics, the Arts, English, Science, Physical Education, Health, Studies of Society and the Environment and Technology and Enterprise. The Australia Curriculum will be implemented as it is released to schools. In the first instance we will be implementing; Mathematics, English, Science and History.

Australian Curriculum online: [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au](http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au)

Digital resources for all learning areas via Scootle: [www.scootle.edu.au/ec/p/home](http://www.scootle.edu.au/ec/p/home)

## **REPORTS**

Reports are sent home at the following times:

- At the end of Term 2 a full written report based on continuous assessment. Parent/teacher discussions are to be arranged as necessary.
- End of Term 4 a full and final written report, which outlines progress and development of the student throughout Terms 3 and 4.

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

The school is committed to setting homework. The school recognises the increasing pressures of family life and the demands on parents' time. For this reason, homework schedules (see below) are to be closely observed and the homework policy reviewed in relation to rapidly changing lifestyles.

### **Recommended Homework times:**

<b>Years 1 &amp; 2:</b>	<b>5 - 25 minutes</b>
<b>Years 3, 4 &amp; 5:</b>	<b>20- 30 minutes</b>
<b>Years 6:</b>	<b>40 - 45 minutes</b>

## **PARENT HELP**

Parents are welcome in the school and are encouraged to help out in classes. Many teachers are very keen to enlist the support of parents to help with small group work, sport, etc. There are a number of other ways in which parents can help out, including attending 'working bees,' and volunteering for canteen duty. Parents are very welcome and your attendance at year level Masses and assemblies is very desirable.

The P & F Association holds a number of fundraising functions during the year and invariably there are a lot of jobs to be done to see those through to a successful conclusion. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

## **CANTEEN**

The school canteen is open every day and is staffed by a Manager who is supported by parent volunteers. The canteen has a policy of providing healthy foods. We have implemented and maintain the Healthy Food and Drinks Policy, by the W.A Government initiative. For more information visit: [www.waschoolcanteens.org.au](http://www.waschoolcanteens.org.au) or <http://www.det.wa.edu.au/healthyfoodanddrink/detcms/portal/>

## **UNIFORM**

The school uniform is compulsory for all students from Year 1 to Year 6. Students are expected to be well groomed and have a sense of pride in their appearance.

All uniform items can be purchased from the School Uniform Shop.

## **UNIFORM SHOP**

The Uniform Shop is located on the school premises and is open for business at the following times:

Monday	2:30pm - 3:30pm
Friday	8:00am - 9:30am

Any changes to these times will be advertised in the school newsletter.

## **SCHOOL BOARD**

In general terms the Board's function is to plan for the present and future operation of the school. It meets on a monthly basis to review the school's financial position, review capital development planning and considers reports from representatives of the P & F Association, Parish Council and the Principal. The Board holds an annual general meeting in conjunction with the P & F Annual Community Meeting in November. The School Board is accountable to Catholic Education Western Australia.

## **PARENTS AND FRIENDS' ASSOCIATION**

The P & F Association is an integral part of the school's operation. Participation in the activities of the P & F Association is an opportunity for parents to show commitment to their own school as well as to the whole system of Catholic Education in W.A. The P & F Association, as well as assisting in the provision of material needs for the school, can be a valuable means of co-ordinating the spiritual and educational forces of the home and school. The P & F Association is affiliated with the P & F Federation of WA, which represents local associations at a state and national level and approaches governments and educational authorities on their behalf. Meetings are held on a monthly basis and all families are encouraged to attend. The annual general meeting is held in conjunction with the School Board A.G.M. in November. In order to avoid the task of extensive fundraising a P&F levy is placed on school fee account.

## **FEES**

The School Board determines the school fees on an annual basis. Parents can expect an increase each year. The School Board operates within guidelines set by Catholic Education WA. School fees are structured to provide discounts to families with more than one child. Fees are payable by the date specified on the invoice issued to families. This is always within 14 days of the date of issue. There is a 5% discount extended to families paying annual fees within the first term.

Those families who hold a Health Care card are entitled to a discount. This will be offered on sitting the Health Care card.

A schedule of the fees is available on the school's website at [www.starofthesea.wa.edu.au](http://www.starofthesea.wa.edu.au)

## **ENROLMENT POLICY**

Places are offered in the following order:

- Catholic children attending Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
- Siblings of Catholic children
- Catholic children attending other parishes
- Other Christian children when places can be offered

An application form needs to be completed for each child seeking a place at Star of the Sea. A non-refundable \$35 Application Fee is charged. Parents and children are required to attend an interview with the Principal before a place is offered. Enrolment into our three-year-old program does not guarantee your child a place for 4 year old Kindergarten.

A copy of the child's Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate, Immunisation details and application fee are required on submission of the Application. For older children seeking a place, a copy of the child's most recent report is required.

## **SCHOOL LIFE**

There is an expectation that parents will support the following areas of school life:

- the faith education of their children;
- all school activities;
- the school's regulations and codes of conduct and dress, and;
- the fostering of a spirit of co-operation and community between parents, staff and students.

## **SCHOOL SPIRIT**

Parents are asked to support the school by encouraging children to develop a sense of responsibility towards their school and each other and to show respect and friendship by their manner and dress.

Children are expected to greet visitors to the school politely and cheerfully welcome them to the school.

## **SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

On leaving Star of the Sea Primary School the majority of children go to Kolbe Catholic College. Parents are encouraged to register their children's names at the high school of their choice at their earliest convenience because places are often in demand. We work closely with Kolbe College to make the transition from primary to secondary as smooth as possible.

## **OUT OF SCHOOL CARE**

There is an Out of School Care program that provides before school, after school and vacation care for students. This is not owned nor operated by the school. Out of school care personnel can be contacted for more information on (08) 9592 4153

*All correspondence should be addressed to:*

**The Principal  
Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School  
Swinstone Street  
ROCKINGHAM WA 6168**

**Telephone: (08) 9553 9500**

**Fax: (08) 9553 9531**

**Email: [admin@starofthesea.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@starofthesea.wa.edu.au)**

**Website: [www.starofthesea.wa.edu.au](http://www.starofthesea.wa.edu.au)**