Thank you for taking the time to consider St Matthew’s Primary School as part of your child’s journey in both faith and education. The St Matthew’s community welcomes enrolments from families who are genuinely interested in a Christian education based on gospel values, taught from the perspective of the Catholic Faith Tradition.

At St Matthew’s we strive to build a vibrant and welcoming community, where our relationship with Jesus is central, learning is engaging, individual achievements are celebrated and where the children are at the heart of what is most important. Our school lives out the values of love and respect for all.

We work together with our families to support and encourage the faith development of the students and are proud of the warm and inviting atmosphere that exists at our school.

It is our aim to create a sense of belonging, which will, in turn, nurture your child’s growth and help create a healthy self-esteem, factors so necessary for effective learning. Your involvement in your child’s education, whenever possible, is most desirable.

This Parent Information Booklet is a brief overview of some features and organisational details of our school community. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to make contact with the school to meet with me and to view our facilities.

May Jesus journey with you in truth and love.

Brenda Foley
Principal

brenda.foley@cq.catholic.edu.au
St Matthew’s, Page, a co-educational school catering for students from Kindergarten to Year Six, was opened in January 1972 with an initial enrolment of 360 children and twelve staff members. In response to a request from the then Archbishop of Canberra Goulburn, Archbishop Cahill, the Sisters of St Joseph took charge of the new school. Sister Leo Ryan became the Foundation Principal.

The last Principal appointed by the Sisters of St Joseph was Sister Anne Moylan (known then as Sister Peter Julian), who left St Matthew’s at the end of 1987. In 1988 the first lay Principal was appointed, and by 1989 the school was entirely staffed by lay teachers. The community is greatly indebted to the Sisters of St Joseph, who worked so tirelessly to establish and nurture the growth of Catholic Education at St Matthew’s. A plaque commemorating their role in the establishment of the school has been placed in the foyer.

By 1977 St Matthew’s enrolment reached its peak of 919 students. Currently, in spacious, comfortable and well equipped surroundings, the enrolment is now approximately 350 students, drawn mostly from the surrounding suburbs of Hawker, Weetangera, Page and Scullin. We also have students who come from as far away as Hall, Murrumbateman, Yass and Wamboin.

This is what education is all about, this is the meaning of life ... to know Jesus as a friend, as someone who cares about you and the person next to you, and all the people here and everywhere.

\[ \text{† Pope John Paul II} \]
Our school offers ...

As well as a nurturing, dynamic and engaging environment where each child is individually acknowledged and encouraged to grow spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally, we also offer ...

- An innovative curriculum, which draws on current educational theory and practice while also being tailored to meet individual student needs.
- Two computer laboratories, where the students integrate Information Communication Technology into all subject areas.
- Interactive whiteboards in all classrooms, including the library, music room and learning support room.
- A rigorous Year Six Leadership Program, in which all the students learn about leadership and take on extra responsibilities in leading the school.
- A comprehensive and highly effective Student Welfare and Management Policy.
- An Assessment Policy where assessment is easily understood by students and parents.
- The full implementation of Treasures New and Old, our Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum.
- Explicitly taught values, learnt and practiced in context.
- A comprehensive creative arts program.
- A gymnastics/dance program conducted by specialist instructors in alternate years.
- Participation in the Rostrum Public Speaking competition for Year 5 and 6 students.
- Two school concerts each year, one for junior students and one for senior students.
- An all-encompassing sporting program which involves participation in swimming (Years 1 – 6 only), athletics and cross-country carnivals for the students.
- A comprehensive swimming program at the Australian Institute of Sport for all children in Kindergarten to Year 6.
- Well-maintained and engaging play spaces.
- A healthy canteen service from Tuesday - Friday each week.
- Weekly lunch time gardening, computer, chess, robotics and games clubs each week.
Contact Information

School Contacts

St Matthew’s Primary School

Address  Stutchbury Street
          Page ACT 2614

Postal    PO Box 4172
          Hawker ACT 2614

Website   www.stmattsp.act.edu.au

Email     office.stmatts@cg.catholic.edu.au

Phone     (02) 6254 2653

Fax       (02) 6254 9009

School Leadership Team 2016

Principal  Ms Brenda Foley
Assistant Principal Ms Cathy Talbot
RE Coordinator Mrs Sylvia Campbell
Coordinator Mrs Rachel Powell

Front office staff Mrs Belinda Eaton
                  Mrs Sharon Goldsworthy

Parish of St Matthew’s

Parish Priest Fr Michael Mullen
Pastoral Associate Sr Mary Corkeron
Parish Secretary Ms Leah Molony
Address        Chewings Street
                Page ACT 2614
Phone          (02) 6254 1827

Term Dates 2017

Term 1       Monday 30 January to Friday 7 April
             Canberra Day holiday – Monday 13 March

Term 2       Monday 24 April to Friday 30 June
             ANZAC Day holiday – Tuesday 25 April
             Queen’s Birthday holiday - Monday 12 June

Term 3       Monday 17 July to Friday 22 September

Term 4       Monday 9 October to Friday 15 December
## General Information

### School Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30 am</td>
<td>Playground supervision begins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.50 am</td>
<td>Classes begin with Morning Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00 am – 11.30 am</td>
<td>Morning Tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 am – 1.00 pm</td>
<td>Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 pm – 1.10 pm</td>
<td>Supervised eating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.10 pm – 1.50 pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.50 pm – 3.00 pm</td>
<td>Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00 pm</td>
<td>End of School Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.20 pm</td>
<td>Supervision concludes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The school grounds are open to St Matthew’s students from 8.30 am and until 3.20 pm each day, during which time the school provides constant supervision. Children should not be on the school grounds before teacher supervision commences at 8.30 am, and must be collected by 3.20 pm at the latest in the afternoon.

Children are expected to be at school in time for our Morning Assembly at 8.50 am. Parents are asked to avoid late arrivals; it is unsettling for the child, the class and teacher. If your child does arrive late, s/he must be accompanied into school and signed in at the Front Office by the parent/carer.

Children are not permitted to leave the school grounds during school hours. Exceptions will be made if the child is being collected at the Front Office by parents or another responsible adult who is authorised by the parents to collect the child/ren. The ‘Sign In / Out Book’ at the front office must be signed whenever children leave the school during school hours.

### Attendance at School

In accordance with the requirements of the Education Act, parents are encouraged to train their children in the habit of regular attendance at school. Generally, each day’s work is built upon the previous day’s work and any loss of time may upset the teaching and learning programs for the teacher and student. It is an expectation will attend school unless seriously ill or other extraordinary circumstances.

A child who is ill does not participate well and should be kept at home to receive the care needed for recovery. The school should be notified by telephone of a child’s absence on the day the absence occurs. Upon returning to class, a brief written note of explanation from the parent/guardian must be presented to the class teacher. This is a legal requirement.

The school does not set work for children who do not attend classes due to illness or other extraordinary reasons. Families who choose to take their children on extended holidays during term time are asked to make an appointment to seek approval from the principal. Fees are still charged when children are away on extended holidays.
**Contact Phone Numbers**

Parents are asked to inform the school office immediately if contact details change, including address, phone numbers and emergency contacts. This is imperative to allow prompt contact with parents/carers in the event of an emergency. A letter or email to the front office detailing the changes will suffice. Parents are also asked to supply a reliable local emergency contact name and phone number for those times when neither parent can be reached.

**Delivery of students to school - morning**

Supervision begins at 8.30 am. Children must not be on the premises before then unless in Before School Care or private music tuition.

Parents/carers are encouraged to use the drop-off zone in front of the hall to deliver children in the mornings.

- Drivers access the car park turning in from Stutchbury Street via the entrance closest to the Junior Playground and leave via the exit at the bottom of the netball courts ramp.
- Parents/carers drive into the drop-off zone, children say a **quick** goodbye and step onto the path which leads to the playground using the doors on the LEFT HAND SIDE OF THE CAR, then the car moves on. Children should not get out on the right hand side of vehicles as they are in danger of being struck by other cars.
- Drivers using the drop-off facility are to stay in their cars as getting out to open doors or car boot will cause traffic delays.
- Drivers must move on promptly without overtaking cars in front.
- Three cars can use the drop-off zone at one time. Do not stop in the middle or at the back of the zone if there are no cars in the front space/s. Move to the front of the zone.
- Only cars using the drop-off zone are permitted to drive through the staff car park. Please do not park in the staff car park at any time.
- Please do not use the driveway which leads into the Junior Playground at any time.
- If parents wish to get out of the car to help the child exit the vehicle (or would like to say a prolonged goodbye!), they must use the netball court car park or parent car park.

If parents/carers prefer to use the netball court car park or parent car park so they can walk their child/ren to the supervision area, they are asked to accompany the child/ren through the car park, down the front steps and around the side of the hall to the Junior Playground. There is no general access through the school building before 8.50 am.

**Collection of students from school - afternoon**

School concludes at 3.00 pm each day. Supervision is provided until 3.20 pm.

- At the conclusion of school each day, all children in the school are taken by their class teachers to the Junior Playground.
- Parents who are collecting their child/ren directly after school wait in this area.
- After the bell, the teacher on duty dismisses the children catching buses first, followed by walkers/riders, then the After School Care children.
- Children who can see their parent/carer are then be permitted to stand up and walk to the adult taking them home as they are invited by the teacher on duty. Parents/carers then directly supervise their child/ren. We ask that parents/carers do not allow their children to play games at this time.
Children will remain on the green soft fall area until an adult has come to collect them.
Children are not permitted to walk unaccompanied to cars, even those in line of sight from the Junior Playground.
The playground equipment is out of bounds after school until 3.20 pm.
In the afternoons, children must be collected by 3.20 pm at the latest unless at After School Care. Children left at school after this time are taken to the Principal’s office from where the parent/carer may collect the children on arrival.

Student Behaviour Protocol
All that we do and say at St Matthew’s is grounded in the values we teach explicitly to our students. Our Student Behaviour Protocol is based on a clear premise that we act in a positive manner with the aim of restoration of relationships that may be damaged through conflict or poor behaviour choices. This is done through explicit teaching, in-class activities and reinforced by our Year 6 leaders in the peer support groups. Our agreed core values are:

- Well-being
- Respect
- Learning
- Responsibility
- Belonging
- Doing Your Best

A school-wide set of rules developed by the staff, which sets out our expectations in a simple form, is the basis of our words and actions. These three rules also form the basis of class rules that are negotiated in each class at the beginning of the year and reinforced with reminders throughout the school terms. These rules help us achieve our aims and support our agreed values:

- We show courtesy and respect for others.
- We allow students to learn and teachers to teach.
- We care for the environment in which we work and live.

Ways in which we encourage our students to achieve the above outcomes include the Anti Bullying and Unacceptable Language Policies, and the ‘Hands Off, Feet Off’ rule. A copy of our Student Behaviour Protocol is available on the school website.

The Sacramental Program
The Sacramental programs at St Matthew’s are parish-based with the school working closely with the parish team, the parish school of religion and families to help implement the programs. All children are taught the content of Penance (Confession) and Eucharist (Communion) in Year Three and Confirmation in Year Six.

The acceptance of the invitation to receive the sacrament is entirely the responsibility of the families involved. Parents may wish to wait if they feel their child is not ready or that the family is not able to commit fully to the program at the time.

Attendance at information, preparation and prayer sessions by families and students wishing to participate in the Sacramental program is expected.
Enrolment Policy
St Matthew’s Page, as part of the Archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn, works within the Enrolment Policy developed by Catholic Education. If there are fewer places than the demand in any year the following priorities will apply:
1. baptised Catholic who is a member of St Matthew’s Parish
2. sibling of child/ren already attending St Matthew’s
3. baptised Catholic who cannot obtain place in local parish school.
4. baptised Catholic who can obtain places in their own parish primary school.
5. non-Catholic children whose parents/carers desire and are committed to a Catholic education

Kindergarten Information
During Term Four we conduct an Information Night for parents/carers whose children have a place in Kindergarten the following year. The information session for 2017 Kindergarten parents will be held on Wednesday 9 November 2016 at 7.00 pm

Towards the end of their time at preschool, we also invite new Kindergarten students to an Orientation session. This allows them to spend some time in the Kindergarten classrooms to familiarise them with the school environment. The Orientation for 2017 Kindergarten students will be held on Wednesday 16 November 2016 from 9.30 am – 12.00 pm

Communication between school and home
Open and ongoing communication between parents, staff and children is extremely important in enhancing all aspects of children’s learning and development. Parents are always welcome to visit the school and speak with the teachers and principal; however, for practical reasons it is preferable that an appointment is made beforehand. We would appreciate your cooperation in not seeking to speak with class teachers during class time or morning assembly time.

There are opportunities for you to meet with your child’s teacher and discuss your child’s progress throughout the school year. Details of these occasions are provided at the Parent Information Nights which are held at the beginning of the year. *(See our section overleaf on Reporting and Assessment)*

The fortnightly newsletter, ‘Matty’s Matters’, is delivered every second Thursday via email and is published on the school website. The fortnightly reminders, ‘Matty’s Reminders’ is published in the alternate weeks.

A term calendar is issued at the beginning of each term. Both the newsletter and the term calendar are accessible through the school website.
Reporting and Assessment

Assessment in primary school is focussed across the full school year. Every successful teacher sees the importance of continuously gathering information and making judgements about his or her students’ strengths, weaknesses, abilities, achievements and needs. Assessment is used in evaluating a child’s individual progress, reporting to parents and in planning the next set of learning experiences. Teachers use a range of assessment procedures, including:

- Diagnostic assessments in literacy and numeracy
- Administration of progress tests designed to suit a particular group of children
- Ongoing anecdotal assessment and observations
- Rich assessment tasks
- NAPLAN testing (in Years 3 and 5)
- Specific screening

Reporting and Assessment Timeline

Communication between teachers and parents is vital to the success of the children. The following opportunities are available for Reporting and Communication:

- **Term One**
  - Content overviews
  - Meet and Greet Interviews
  - Learning Journeys

- **Term Two**
  - Content overviews
  - Formal Student Achievement Reports

- **Term Three**
  - Content overviews
  - Parent/Teacher Interviews
  - Learning Journeys

- **Term Four**
  - Content overviews
  - Formal Student Achievement Reports
  - Parent/Teacher Interviews as requested by parents

Excursions and Performances

During the year children will be given opportunities to participate in a variety of educational activities either at school or at other venues. The cost of these activities is deducted from the Co-curricula Levy which is included in the School Fees.

Permission notes are required by the school before children are permitted to travel by public or private transport. Educational excursions are regarded as an integral part of the learning process; therefore, all children are expected to participate.

Children in Years 5 and 6 participate in 3 and 4-day camps respectively each year. The cost of this camp is added to the School Fees.
School Community Council

The Community Council is our model of school governance. The Community Council Executive is made up of elected parent representatives including Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Secretary, Parish Priest, Principal and Staff Representatives. This Executive works on strategic and management planning, school budget, sets school fees and collaborate with the Community Council Committees.

There are five Committees which are run by parents which sit side-by-side with the Executive. These Committees are:

- **School and Community Services** - Clothing Pool, Canteen, Book Club, Student Banking, Class representatives, Mother’s Day event, Father’s Day event, Carols by Candlelight, Social events
- **Fundraising** - Trivia night, School discos, Bunnings BBQs, Election Day BBQs
- **Fête** – held each year in early November
- **School Environment** - Grounds maintenance, Playground maintenance, Working bees
- **Special Events**

Parents are warmly invited to become involved in the Community Council at the beginning of each year. We pride ourselves on being a school where everyone does a little bit!

Stationery Requirements

The school supplies most stationery needs for the children. To cover the cost of these, a Resource Fee is incorporated into the school fees. We do ask parents to provide the following items and replenish when necessary:

- **Kindergarten**: painting smock, library bag and box of tissues.
- **Year 1**: painting smock, library bag, chair bag and box of tissues.
- **Years 2 - 6**: painting smock, library bag, coloured pencils and textas and a box of tissues.

**Please note:**

- All exercise books, textbooks and paints are supplied by the school.
- All exercise books should be covered and clearly marked with the child’s name and class.

Family Involvement

To help us provide the best possible education for your child, your involvement as parents/carers is welcomed and encouraged. Help comes in many forms:

**At home:**

- Talking with your child about school (highlighting the positive aspects).
- Ensuring that your child is reading and/or being read to regularly.
- Ensuring that homework is completed and discussed.
- Ensuring your child is equipped each morning with the tools s/he needs to complete a successful day of learning at school – fruit break, recess and lunch, school hat, home reader/homework, other necessary equipment etc.

**At school:**

- Joining in with class and school Masses and attending school assemblies.
- Participating in Sacramental Programs.
- Assisting teachers with literacy and maths groups, art/craft, computer work, or any area of the curriculum you enjoy and in which you feel confident.
- Attending grounds maintenance working bees.
- Attending Community Council Open Meetings.
- Assisting with a Community Council working party or committee.
**Homework**

We believe that children can begin to develop a sense of responsibility for their own learning and time management skills by doing homework. Homework creates an important and appropriate link between home and school, directly involving parents in their child’s education. Homework is an opportunity to develop existing skills through practice. We believe that homework is also:

- A positive reinforcement of learning done at school.
- An opportunity for open-ended research for children who want to be extended.
- An opportunity for parent/child discussion about what the child is learning.
- A means of providing the teacher with feedback as to how concepts and skills have been grasped.

Homework requirements take into account the diversity of expectations placed upon children outside school hours by family and social commitments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Suggested Core Homework Activities</th>
<th>Time Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Reading, alphabet, sight words</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Reading, sight words, alphabet, numeration skills</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Reading, sight words, alphabet, numeration skills</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Reading, numeration skills</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Reading, numeration skills</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Reading, numeration skills, extra study</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Reading, numeration skills, extra study</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Uniform

The school uniform is part of our community identity as St Matthew’s School. Children are to wear correct uniform at all times and we ask the cooperation of parents in this matter. If children are out of uniform for any reason, please provide a written note of explanation to the class teacher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>St Matthew’s Uniform Requirements</th>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sky blue polo shirt with school crest</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sky blue polo shirt with school crest with Navy blue dress shorts (not skorts) <strong>OR</strong> ACT Catholic primary school summer dress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy blue shorts</td>
<td></td>
<td>Navy blue dress shorts (not skorts) <strong>OR</strong> ACT Catholic primary school summer dress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black polishable school shoes (not black sandshoes or skate shoes)</td>
<td></td>
<td>White ankle length socks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy ankle length socks</td>
<td></td>
<td>Black polishable school shoes (not black sandshoes or skate shoes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maroon school hat</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maroon school hat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maroon school jumper with logo</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maroon school jumper with logo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Winter</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy trousers</td>
<td></td>
<td>ACT Catholic primary school winter pinafore with sky blue ‘Peter Pan’ collar blouse or skivvy <strong>OR</strong> Navy slacks with sky blue ‘Peter Pan’ collar blouse, skivvy or long sleeve polo with school logo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sky blue business shirt with St Matthew’s school tie <strong>OR</strong> Sky blue skivvy, or long sleeve polo with school logo</td>
<td></td>
<td>Navy blue tights or navy ankle length socks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black polishable school shoes</td>
<td></td>
<td>Black polishable school shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy ankle length socks</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maroon school hat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maroon school hat</td>
<td></td>
<td>Maroon school hat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sport</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maroon shorts (not Umbro or similar) or pleated netball style skirt with sports pants underneath</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sky blue sports shirt with school crest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White socks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White or light coloured sports shoes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maroon school jumper with logo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain maroon tracksuit – no logo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note the following general points:
- Hair must be neat and tidy, and is to be natural hair colours and conservative styles only. Long hair (at or past shoulder length) must be secured in ponytails or plaits. Students may not have designs shaved into the hair or wear extreme hairstyles.
- Hair ribbons are to be in the school colours of navy or maroon. Hair ties may be of the child’s natural hair colour.
- The St Matthew’s school bag is a compulsory part of the uniform.
- A navy parka or coat is permitted in the cooler months.
- School hats must be worn throughout the year, except in June and July when they are optional.
- An optional navy beanie may be worn in June and July.Scarves and gloves must be navy blue or maroon.
- Children are to wear sneakers which are predominantly white with sports uniform.
- Boots and high cut sneakers are unacceptable at all times.
- Socks worn should cover the ankles.
- No jewellery is permitted other than a watch or one stud type earring in either/both ears. Only earlobes are permitted to be pierced.
- Nail polish is not to be worn.
- Children are encouraged to regularly apply sunscreen.
Year Six Student Leadership Program

At St Matthew’s, we believe that all students have leadership potential. Leadership skills can be taught and learned. It is the school’s social responsibility to develop an understanding of leadership and leadership skills in all students, with particular focus on the Leadership Class.

Therefore, we consider all members of the Year Six class to be Student Leaders. Student Leadership is about learning to be a good leader in a variety of situations, and making wise choices when given leadership responsibilities.

They are given many opportunities to learn about and display leadership qualities, and can earn the right to wear the School Leader shirt. Leadership at the school level is learned and then earned, so every facet of the Leadership program is dependent on the student earning the Leadership roles and privileges. All members of the Leadership group are trained as Student Leaders in three positions throughout the year:

- Media Mogul
- Activity Activist
- Community Campaigner

The Student Leaders work on leadership skills throughout the year, and are encouraged to display good leading behaviours at all times.

The Year Six students are also given the shared responsibility of leading the other students. In addition to leading by personal example, these students facilitate ‘Making Jesus Real’ (MJR) groups; these are small groups of ten to fifteen children from across the grade levels. In this way positive relationships are built amongst students and between teachers and students. These groups meet to complete a variety of activities designed to develop values and skills, which enable the leaders to use their talents to benefit others.

School Fees

It is important that you understand why parents are asked to pay fees in a Catholic school. Traditionally Australian Catholic schools have been built and operated with money provided by the parents whose children are enrolled in the schools. Although both the Federal and the ACT governments now contribute substantially to the economic viability of our schools, we still rely heavily on school fees collected from parents to ensure a level of staffing and resources comparable with the government schools. We also rely on funds raised through the Community Council for necessary resources.

The Community Council and Catholic Education Commission are responsible for setting the school fees each year. Every attempt is made by these parties to minimise the fees. Outlined below is an explanation of the fees and on whose behalf the fee is collected. School fees for the 2016 year are set out below. Please note these fees are expected to change for 2017.

The preferred method of payment of school fees is BPay or Direct Debit. School fees can also be paid by cash, cheque or EFTPOS at the front office. Credit card payments can be made at the front office or by phone; alternatively you may set up an automatic regular payment from a credit card account. The school financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December. Forms and advice are available from the front office to help parents/carers set up these arrangements.
St Matthew’s 2016 Fees per year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>One Student</th>
<th>Two Students</th>
<th>Three Students</th>
<th>Four Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Education</td>
<td>$1304.00</td>
<td>$1695.20</td>
<td>$1956.00</td>
<td>$1956.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuition Fee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Resource</td>
<td>$580.00</td>
<td>$1160.00</td>
<td>$1740.00</td>
<td>$2320.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Levy</td>
<td>$720.00</td>
<td>$720.00</td>
<td>$720.00</td>
<td>$720.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Fund</td>
<td>$632.00</td>
<td>$632.00</td>
<td>$632.00</td>
<td>$632.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$3236.00</td>
<td>$4207.20</td>
<td>$5048.00</td>
<td>$5628.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* A tuition discount applies for families with older siblings in systemic Catholic high schools. Please enquire at the Front Office.

**Tuition Fee**

Tuition fees are collected on behalf of the Catholic Education Commission and this money is used to help pay teachers’ wages and other running costs of the Catholic Education Office. This fee is paid on an individual student basis, and there are significant discounts for siblings from the same family.

**Resource Levy**

This fee is set by the Community Council Executive and is charged on a per student basis. This money, which is retained by the school, is used to pay for textbooks, exercise books, paper, pencils, paint and other classroom consumables. It also ensures we have sufficient funds to maintain current ICT resources, and also to purchase new resources including pods of mobile laptop facilities for class use and other Learning Technologies to enhance teaching and learning experiences at school. Costs for the swimming, cross-country and athletics carnivals, Term Four swimming program, alternate year dance/gym programs and all school excursions are also covered in this levy.

**School Levy**

This fee is set by the School Board and is a family fee. It is used to pay for essential services such as electricity, gas, telephone, photocopying and cleaning. It also helps service loans taken out for recent school refurbishments. This levy also covers the cost of printing our school magazine, a copy of which is received by each family at the end of each year.

**Catholic Schools Building Fund Contribution**

These contributions are paid into a central fund administered by the trustees of the Archdiocese and the amount is tax deductible. These funds are used to maintain and repair capital works in Catholic schools. Over the last few years St Matthew’s has received over $500,000 from this fund. This money has been used to refurbish the canteen, computer lab and classrooms, as well as increasing the size of our Year 1 and Year 5 classrooms. It has also been used to update the main switchboard in the school and to provide insulation to the classrooms. The amount shown above does not include the costs involved with regular maintenance such as blocked toilets, replacement of downpipes and other services carried out by CEO staff and their contractors.
Curriculum

St Matthew’s offers quality teaching and learning in Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Technology, Health and Physical Education, History, The Arts and Japanese. Through teaching these Subject Areas, we endeavour to develop the intellectual, academic, physical, emotional, social and spiritual growth of our students. We aim to provide opportunities for success for each child, and to build on all positive aspects of learning.

Religious Education

Religious Education focuses on religious knowledge, liturgy and prayer. It is the parents’ role to play an active part in the faith development of their children, and in so doing, complement and support the school in this vital aspect of the child’s life. We base our studies on the Archdiocesan Religious Education curriculum, ‘Treasures New and Old.’

English

There are three elements to English: Literacy, Language and Literature. They are viewed as a whole at St Matthew’s, not separate subjects. Our understanding is that children learn by doing. We expect children to learn to read by reading and to write by writing. The underlying skills of phonics, spelling and grammar are taught in context. We have fully embedded the Australian Curriculum – English which guides all work we do in this area.

Mathematics

Mathematics is a search for patterns and relationships. It helps children to solve problems and improve their understanding of the world. We report in the strands Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Teaching combines a hands-on or practical approach with theoretical application, recording and problem solving. The Australian Curriculum – Mathematics guides the development of our maths curriculum.

History

Awareness of history is an essential characteristic of any society, and historical knowledge is fundamental to understanding ourselves and others. It promotes the understanding of societies, events, movements and developments that have shaped humanity from earliest times. It helps students appreciate how the world and its people have changed, as well as the significant continuities that exist to the present day. The Australian Curriculum – History is our source of curriculum in this area, and sees our history focus through the seven years of primary move from the local and personal to the national and global historical story through time.

Science

Science provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of important science concepts and processes, the practices used to develop scientific knowledge, of science’s contribution to our culture and society, and its applications in our lives. The curriculum supports students to develop the scientific knowledge, understandings and skills to make informed decisions about local, national and global issues. The Australian Curriculum – Science is our source document.
The Arts
This Key Learning Area encompasses dance, drama, the visual arts and music, which assist the development of the whole person, providing for self-expression, promoting growth and encouraging personal responses. The Creative Arts at St Matthew’s are taught by a specialist teacher in all year levels. The Australian Curriculum – Creative Arts is our source document.

Languages - Japanese
This involves a study of the Japanese language, with an emphasis on oral language and culture. It is taught by a specialist teacher to each class from Kindergarten – Year 6 for 30 minutes each week.

Technology
Technology is an integral part of our teaching at St Matthew’s. We understand that children need to become well equipped with appropriate skills and understandings to be active participants in our technological society. Through this curriculum area students will engage in experiences which involve technological content, processes and skills.

This Subject Area includes Information Communication Technology, which is also used as a tool across all other Subject Areas and assists our students with their learning and skill development. We have two Computer Laboratories, and all classrooms are linked through a network of multi-media computers and an interactive whiteboard. We also have several banks of iPads for use by students. As well as providing for the use of the basic Microsoft software package, each student has direct supervised access to the world through the internet. Skills such as research and communication are enhanced through the use of this media.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
PDHPE helps children to see themselves as active, creative, responsible and informed decision makers. It seeks to develop a sense of well-being and personal worth and tries to cultivate those understandings and skills that will help the child develop and maintain satisfying relationships. To complement the skills we are aiming to develop, we also make use of various free sporting clinics provided by trained instructors from local sporting codes.

We provide dance and swimming programs using specialist teachers at an additional cost to parents. Each year children participate in school carnivals for athletics, cross country and swimming. The children who do well at these carnivals are chosen to participate in the Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA) representative carnivals.
Student Services

Library
St Matthew’s has a well-resourced library that is available for student use at all times. All classes have the opportunity to borrow library books weekly. The teacher librarian works with each class in a scheduled lesson each week on developing information skills.

All children need a library bag to protect the books they borrow to take home. The borrowing period is usually for one week and previously borrowed books need to be returned prior to re-borrowing. Children may borrow over the school holiday breaks with the exception of the Christmas period when the library closes in Week 8 of Term 4 for stock-take and administration.

Children will also have the chance to visit the library during lunchtimes on specified days. During this time they can return and borrow, read, play board games, work on research projects or draw.

Parent assistance in the library is always welcome. Parents often assist with the shelving of books and the covering of new resources. Please see the Teacher Librarian if you would like to help.

Computer and Internet Use
St Matthew’s computer laboratories and classroom computers will be utilised, where appropriate, by the students during lessons in all subjects. We endeavour to integrate technology purposefully across all curriculum areas to enrich the children’s learning.

We have an Internet usage agreement, which outlines policy for usage and is required to be signed by parents and children annually.

Book Club
Ashton Scholastic provides a ‘Book Club’ service for our school. This is organised by volunteer parents, who give generously of their time. This service is a good way to buy appropriate literature at reasonable prices for your child.

Canteen
The canteen aims to provide a variety of foods with good nutritional value and follows the ‘Healthy Canteen’ strategy. It is run by a coordinator employed by the Community Council, who is assisted by volunteer parents. All parents are invited to work in the Canteen on a rostered basis - usually one day per month. Lunches are ordered by using the ‘Flexischools’ online canteen ordering system. Alternatively, lunches can be ordered by listing the items required on a paper bag, together with the child’s name and class, and placing the correct money in the bag. This is then placed in the class lunch order tub. Healthy snacks and drinks are available over the counter.
**School Banking**

This service is provided by the Commonwealth Bank and once again it is well organised by volunteer parents. School banking for Kindergarten children does not start immediately. You will be notified of the day and the procedures at the start of the year.

**Out of School Hours Care**

The School has contracted Belconnen Community Services to provide an on-site before and after school care service. Details of the cost of this service are available from the coordinator of the service. Before school care runs from 7.30 am to 8.50 am and after school care from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm. The contact telephone number for St Matthew’s Out of School Hours Care is 02 6264 0200.

**Learning Support**

The Learning Support Program supports and encourages those children in the school who, for a variety of reasons, require extra learning assistance. Children are generally identified by their class teacher. We recognise that some children require additional support in order to maximise their educational opportunities.

Our Learning Support Program offers learning support from Resource Teachers and Learning Support Assistants. The most effective practice for helping learners with special needs is one which involves a concerted and collaborative approach between the class teacher, home and the Learning Support Team. Flexible approaches are taken to address different student needs.

**School Counsellor**

CatholicCare and Catholic Education provide the school with a Counsellor for one and a half days each fortnight. The role of the Counsellor is to be available to parents, students and teachers who seek advice or assistance with family, social or behavioural problems. Parents may request an interview with the counsellor or a teacher may refer a child. Before teacher referral, parents are contacted and their permission sought. Generally, primary aged students do not refer themselves to the counsellor without parental consent.

**Kindergarten Medical Screening**

The School Medical Service provided by ACT Health visits the school each year. Kindergarten children receive medical screening. Other children are seen on request. Parents are contacted if there is any need for referral to appropriate specialist services.

**Clothing Pool**

The Clothing Pool is an auxiliary committee of the Community Council run by volunteers. The main aim is to provide a service to parents wishing to buy pre-loved school uniform items which are in good condition, and to sell some new uniform items such as hats and school bags. The clothing pool is located in the school building, and the operating hours are Fridays from 2.45 pm – 3.10 pm.
Health Information

Sickness at School
In the event that a student becomes ill at school they will be accompanied to the Sick Bay where they are supervised while parents are being contacted. The provision of an updated emergency contact number is vital in these situations.

Accidents
If an accident occurs during school hours the following procedure will be followed:
- For minor accidents, a staff member trained in first aid will treat the child, and if necessary inform parents.
- For more serious accidents, an ambulance will be called and parents notified.
- Sick or injured children will be supervised while they are waiting for parents to attend to them.

Medication
If your child has any special medical needs or conditions, (e.g. asthma, allergies, epilepsy) it is essential that the school be given this information. Please record any relevant information on the enrolment form and discuss your child’s needs with the principal.

If a child is to take medication at school, written consent and directions for the teacher must be supplied with the medication in its original container. Medication cannot be administered without this form being completed. With liquid medicine a measuring device must be supplied to ensure the correct dosage is given. Medication (other than asthma medication) is not to be stored in the children’s bags or desks. Lockable storage is provided at the School Office where a record is maintained of all medication administered. The class teacher must be made aware of any children with asthma medication in their bags.

Immunisation and Infectious Diseases
The ACT Public Health Regulations reflect an attempt to prevent children from contracting the eight childhood vaccine-preventable diseases. You must present an Immunisation Record form at the time of enrolment. If your child is not immunised, you must follow the procedures set out by ACT Health. Children who are not immunised will be excluded from school when there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease in the school.

The quarantine periods for infectious diseases such as measles, chickenpox, mumps etc is stipulated by the ACT Department of Health. If your child contracts one of these diseases, you are asked to notify the school immediately and to observe the mandatory school exclusion periods.

Fruit Break
St Matthew’s has a fruit break in classrooms at around 10.00 am each day. Research has shown that the fructose (sugar) found in fruit promotes brain activity and can help boost energy levels in the middle of the long morning work session. Parents are asked to send only fresh fruit for the fruit break as dried fruit and some other fruit snacks are high in sugar. Parents may like to send in some wipes to the classroom for sticky fingers. For younger children the fruit should be chopped and put into a small container, as this makes it easier for little people to eat. Grapes, strawberries, watermelon and fruits in season are suggested.
Beginning School

A Few Tips for Starting Kindergarten

Toileting  Teach your child to use the toilet independently. Explain that children at school use paper towels to dry hands, and that used paper towel must be put in a bin.

Bags  Ensure that your child can identify his/her school bag. A special key ring, a piece of ribbon or their photograph in a plastic wallet can help the children easily identify their bags.

Shoelaces  Practise tying laces. Not all children know how to laces when starting Kinder, but all should have mastered this skill by the end of Kindergarten. This can only be achieved by practice at home.

Jumpers  Let your child practise putting on and taking off his/her jumper independently.

Labels  Label everything: shoes, hats, bags, jumpers, drink bottles, lunch boxes.

Little Lunch and Big Lunch  Teach your child to differentiate between little lunch (morning tea) and big lunch in the lunch box. Teach your child how to unwrap cling wrap from sandwiches, how to open packets, open drink bottles and lunch boxes.

Reading  Read with your child every day. Allow him/her to hold the book and to talk about interesting characters, information, events.

Pencil Grip  Encourage your child to practise holding a pencil correctly using the thumb and first two fingers only.

Practise writing first name  Spend some time teaching your child to write their name. When writing your child’s name use a capital letter for the first letter and lower case letters for the rest of their name.

Rupert  George  Jemima  Maggie
x ADAM  Adam