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School Details

Principal: Mr Todd Murfitt
APRIM: Mrs Annette Diassinas
Parish Priest: Fr Christopher Matala
Chair of School Board: Mr Martin Slade
Chair of Parents & Friends: Mrs Kathleen Slade
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Welcome

St Columba’s Memorial School is a leading Catholic Primary School located on the Southern Yorke Peninsula. St Columba’s is a co-educational school for students of all backgrounds from reception to year 7.

Your choice of schooling is one of the most important decisions made on behalf of your child. We trust that choosing this school will prove to be a worthwhile and enjoyable experience for your family and especially your child. St Columba’s is a welcoming, learning, vibrant, faith-filled community. We endeavour to work together as partners in your child’s educational and spiritual development.

Students are nurtured to develop and demonstrate mutual respect and self-discipline in behaviour, dress and manner. Underpinning this, the highly professional staff provide every student individual attention together with pastoral and academic support. The following information will help you become aware of our vision and goals for education.
Honouring the past, discovering the future

St Columba of Iona was an Irishman who converted Scotland to Christianity in the sixth century. He was born in Donegal Ireland, in 521 C.E. into a noble family. At an early age he entered the monastery and later became Abbot.

In 563, together with a group of twelve disciples he landed on the island of Iona, off the coast of Scotland and founded a monastery.

His life was filled with extraordinary mission activity and as an accomplished sailor, he was able to sail among the many islands converting inhabitants and founding churches. Iona became the site of a Benedictine Abbey and of a little cathedral. Scottish reformers dismantled these in 1561.

Columba died in 597. He was widely loved for his wisdom and prayerful life. Today, there is a growing revival in Celtic spirituality and Iona has once again become a centre for pilgrimages and spirituality.

The life of our school began in 1957 when Monsignor Redden opened St Columba’s Memorial school. At that time both day and boarding school students were enrolled under the care of the Sisters of St Joseph.

Over the years renovations and additions have updated the school’s faculties. A significant milestone was marked in 1994 when the Sisters vacated the Convent building to provide more space for the school’s needs.

An indication of the commitment of the school community can be gained from the major endeavour of parents who worked for thirty-five consecutive Saturdays to renovate the convent building and later, erected a large shelter shed.

In 2002 the Sisters of St Joseph left Yorketown for other ministries and the first lay principal was appointed. Each year the memory of the founding sisters is honoured with the conferring of a student citizenship award, named after Sr Pamela Patterson, a much loved contributor to the school in the early years.
Individual Attention

Every person matters, absolutely.

Every child is unique. Every child has talent that can be nurtured and every child deserves to be treated as an individual. Effective learning and teaching is based upon an understanding of the individual to allow each child’s true potential to blossom.

St Columba’s Memorial School monitor each student’s progress, using a whole staff online database, and continuous feedback is given to the student and their family. The school strives to keep class sizes small and work in partnership with Catholic Education South Australia to provide additional support for children with special needs.

Students and parents are able to access further learning opportunities and communications, through our vibrant website and school portal, as well as our social media presence.
A strong academic grounding is the best investment in your child’s future. St Columba’s Memorial has an outstanding record of academic success unrivalled in Southern Yorke Peninsula.

Student learning is at the centre of all professional conversations and planning for St Columba’s Memorial. We attract the highest quality, skilled educators, who using modern pedagogies and rigorous assessment procedures, aim to provide an environment where every child can perform at their best.

Our students have access to multiple technologies, with our school maintaining Desktop computers, laptops, MacBooks, iPads and windows tablet devices. We have also been supported by international software companies to be able to access software creation tools and begin to explore leading edge emerging technologies.

St Columba’s is a place where happy, confident students are encouraged to become self-disciplined, responsible adults.
Opportunity to Shine

St Columba’s is more than just a school of academic excellence. We recognise that well-rounded children have many cultural and artistic talents that can be developed both inside and outside the classroom.

Our biennial school productions are a dynamic tribute to the professionalism and dedication of our staff and students and are whole community engaging events, in which we take much pride. These are well complemented by our Carols Night again engaging all of our students and our community.

St Columba’s Memorial School also has a rich history of success within local and state visual arts competitions.

Our students have access to SAPSASA sporting events as well as similar Catholic school events. They are also able to become part of the Catholic Schools Music festival as well as being able to demonstrate their talents more regularly during school masses, liturgies and assemblies.
Spirit of Mary

Students and families new to our school, quickly perceive the unique spirit and sense of belonging that envelops our school community, and translates into a deep sense of pride. It is a regular observation from parents and others in the community; the great enjoyment displayed by our students not only in their own success, but the success of their peers.

As a Catholic School in the Josephite tradition, we value this culture and encourage students to take an active role in improving the lives of others in both the local, national and global community. Students are able to join outreach programs such as ‘Mini-Vinnies’ and are led by our teachers and support staff to be caring and responsible members of our society.

Our school chaplains take an active role in supporting our students and their families to address their various needs. They also engage our students with supporting community programs such as aged care.
Curriculum

Teaching and learning at St Columba’s Memorial school is closely tied to the Australian National Curriculum. Teachers also engage with the Early Years Framework and the National Standards for Teachers to ensure the high quality of their programming.

As a Catholic School in South Australia we also incorporate ‘Made in the image of God’, ‘On Holy Ground’ and ‘Crossways’ into our teaching and learning, which enables us to effectively teach the whole child and actively support their spiritual growth. Copies of these documents are available upon request, and Leadership staff will be glad to help walk you through them.

Our school also implements the ‘Kidsmatter’ mental health initiative and the ‘Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden’ programme.
Extra-Curricular

Our staff has a deep commitment to be on the leading edge of education. This often provides students with multiple opportunities to engage with quality extra-curricular activities that support their ongoing learning and leadership skills.

The ‘Innovators’ student group meet regularly to explore new developments in ICT, create shows for our radio station and provide their input into future school initiatives.

Mini-Vinnies also meet regularly, endeavouring to have a positive impact on school culture and more broadly in the community.

Our school is committed to sustainability; our market garden and aquaponics is carefully maintained by our students and volunteers which also has a great impact on the curriculum in terms of financial literacy and agriculture.

We also take advantage of opportunities such as ‘Tournament of Minds’ to cater for students’ talents in leadership, performance and academia.
Vision and Mission

St Columba’s Memorial School
Swinging towards hope-filled futures.

Excellence in...
- Literacy and Numeracy outcomes
- Professional Development
- Leadership
- Individualized learning
- Communication

Resources

Community
- Hope
- Tolerance
- Resilience
- Our environment
- Respect
- Faith
- Pride
- Life-long love of Learning
- Best practice

In the Spirit of St Mary MacKillop
we value...

We reach out to the Community through...
- Interaction with local DEGSS schools
- Parish Connections
- Parent Education
- Empowering staff and students
- Sharing Facilities and Resources
- Support for students and parents with special needs
- An active Parents and Friend Association
- Old scholars
Thinking about enrolment?

At the heart of the Catholic tradition is a calling for Justice and Equity. We welcome all families of all faiths to our school and understand how important the decision is for you.

Your choice of schooling is one of the most important decisions made on behalf of your child. I trust that choosing this school will prove to be a worthwhile and enjoyable experience for your family and especially your child. St Columba’s Memorial is a welcoming, learning, vibrant, faith-filled community. We endeavour to work together as partners in your child’s educational and spiritual development.

Simply fill out the enclosed enrolment form and drop it in or mail to us. You may also choose to download an electronic copy from our website and email to info@scms.catholic.edu.au

In accordance with SACCS policy, the following will be the commencement dates for Reception:

If your child turns five before May 1, they will start school on the first day of Term One in that year. If your child turns five on or after May 1, they will start school on the first day of Term One the following year. If there are special circumstances that you would like to discuss; please make an appointment.