



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools



St Robert's
Newtown



16th December 2025

NEWSLETTER

www.srnewtown.catholic.edu.au



At St Robert's, taking Jesus as our model, we **INCLUDE**, we **CONNECT**, we act with **PURPOSE**.

2026 FOUNDATION PLAY DATE

Sunday 18th January
From 10am to 11am

TERM 1 2026 BEGINS

Thursday 29th January
All Students - Gates open 8:30am

P & F WELCOME MORNING TEA

Thursday 29th January
Staffroom 8:50am - All welcome

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we come to the end of the 2025 school year, I would like to sincerely thank all of our families for the support, partnership and trust you have shown throughout the year. It has truly been a wonderful year at St Robert's, filled with learning, growth and memorable moments.

Across 2025 we have shared so many highlights together, from camps, excursions and sporting events, to our Broadway Bound concert, Colour Run, Kindness in August initiatives, Feast Day celebrations, Book Week, Market Day, Graduation and so many classroom moments that made us proud. These experiences would not be possible without the commitment of our staff and the strong support of our families, and I thank you all for contributing to such a vibrant school community.

Attached to our final newsletter is our new Mobile Phone and Smart Watch Policy. We believe this policy will be a positive addition to our existing School Policies and, most importantly, supports what is best for our students' learning, wellbeing and social connections. We appreciate your support as we implement this moving forward.

As we head into the holidays, I wish all of our families a safe, restful and joyful break. May the Christmas season be one of peace and connection, and may the New Year bring happiness, good health and exciting opportunities for the year ahead.

Thank you once again for a wonderful 2025.

We look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year as we continue to grow together.

Warm regards,

Rebecca O'Leary
PRINCIPAL



REPORT STUDENT ABSENCES BY 9:15AM ON THE DAY OF THE ABSENCE

Please call 5221 1075, press 1 & leave details of absence OR email: attendance@srnewtown.catholic.edu.au
OR submit via Skool Loop App Absences Tab

FAITH IN EDUCATION

Theresa Lewis






SACRAMENTAL DATES

For 2026

Year 6 Confirmation
Thursday 26th of March at 5:00pm

Year 4 First Eucharist
Sunday 23rd of August at 2:30pm

Year 3 Reconciliation
Wednesday 25th of November at 12:05pm

At the request of the Melbourne Vicar's Office, this Sacrament will be celebrated as a private liturgy supported by school staff only and will not include guests. We look forward to celebrating with families at the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation in the coming years. This approach is consistent with our Parish Schools and the practice adopted in 2025.

ART ROOM NEWS

Annie Humphries



MERRY CHRISTMAS
from the art room.

What a wonderful year of creativity it has been.

Have a wonderful summer break and I look forward to seeing you all next year.





STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Week 10

FMC	Marley	Angus
FCH	Maddie	Elias
Gr 1 LB	Otto	Kyle
Gr 1 MP	Jack	Ezra
Gr 2 IW	Jaxon	Collins
Gr 3 EG	Isabel	Noah
Gr 3 SB	Ivy	Otis
Gr 4 CG	Gus	Frankie
Gr 4 SM	Madeleine	Jack
Gr 5 JB	Henry	
Gr 5 RR	Fletcher	Charlotte
Gr 6 CL	Freddy	
Gr 6 KR	Sophie P	
GR 6 PB	Pia	

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Week 11

FMC	Whole FMC class!	
FCH	All of FCH!	
Gr 1 LB	Sebastian	
Gr 1 MP	All the students in 1MP!	
Gr 2 IW	All the students in 2IW!	
Gr 3 EG	All the students in 3EG!	
Gr 3 SB	All students in 3SB!	
Gr 4 CG	Whole 4CG class!	
Gr 4 SM	Madeleine	Jack
Gr 5 JB	Phoebe	Lily B
Gr 5 RR	Caitlin	Anna
Gr 6 CL	All of 6CL!	
Gr 6 KR	Eddie	
GR 6 PB	Finn	

St Robert's acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land, the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders both past, present and emerging.

Purpose

This policy outlines the expectations and requirements for student use of mobile phones and digital communication devices at St Robert's Primary School. It aims to promote student wellbeing, maintain a focused learning environment, and uphold safety standards in alignment with the Acceptable Use Agreement, Child Safe Policies and Behaviour policies.

What is a smart device?

A smart device is an electronic device that is connected to the Internet or other networks. A smart device can collect, process, and transmit data. Smart devices include smartphones, smart watches, smart appliances, wearable fitness trackers, and more.
Source: <https://codasip.com/glossary/smart-devices/>

Scope

This policy applies to all students and covers all mobile phones, smart watches, and any digital device capable of interpersonal connectivity or communication brought onto school premises during the school day.

Policy

Statement

- 1.1. From 8:30am to 3:20pm, students are not permitted to use smart devices e.g. mobile phones and smart watches. Mobile phones and smart watches brought to school must be labelled with the student name and must be dropped at the office when arriving at school. Devices will be stored in a secure location for the duration of the school day.
- 1.2. All devices can be collected from the office after the final bell, dismissal.
- 1.3. Smart watches are not permitted to be worn during the school day. Students are able to wear a watch if it cannot receive or send communication. A watch that counts steps is permitted, but not one that plays music, records or features games. This limits distractions in the classroom. All classrooms have a clock on the wall that students can refer to for the time.

This approach is designed to:

- Protect student wellbeing and reduce distractions.
- Centralise all communication through the school office.
- Ensure compliance with MACS Child Safe, ICT usage standards and our Duty of Care.

Implementation Guidelines

- **Device Drop-off:** Mobile Phones brought to school from home must be labelled with the student name and must be dropped at the office when arriving at school.
- **Storage:** Devices are stored in a locked storage unit and can be collected at 3:20pm.
- **Device Collection:** From 8:30am to 8:50am each day, students must hand in mobile phones or similar devices at the school office. These must be clearly labelled with student name.
- **Communication Protocol:** All parent-student communication during school hours must go through the school office. The school office can pass on urgent messages around pick up to students.
- **Accessibility:** Smartwatches can also be stored with Mobile Phones if needed
- **Exemptions:** Exemptions for medical or special learning needs must be requested in writing and approved by the Principal.

Non-Compliance

Students who do not follow this policy will:

1. Have the device confiscated and stored in the front office.
2. Require a parent or guardian to collect the device.
3. Repeated breaches may result in further disciplinary action aligned with the St Robert's ICT User Agreement.

Related Policies and Documents

Supporting Documents

St Robert's ICT User Agreement

Related MACS Policies and Documents

St Robert's Primary School Privacy Policy

Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Codes of Conduct for students, staff, and parents

Student Behaviour Policy

Anti-Bullying Policy

Child Safety Policies

Data Breach Policy

Managing Complaints and Grievances Policy

Privacy Policy

Social Media Policy for staff

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Policy Information Table

Approval authority	<p>This policy is endorsed by the School Advisory Council and Staff Consultative Committee and is reviewed annually.</p> <p>For further clarification or to request an exemption, families are invited to contact the school office.</p>
Approval date	December 2025
Review by	Review Year 2027