



Parent Handbook

Dear Parents

Welcome to St Kieran's Catholic School. We hope your time here with us will be both rewarding and enjoyable. St Kieran's is a close-knit community with strong links between the school and the parish. The parish is run by priests from the Augustinian order and their spirit of friendship and welcome pervades the community.

As a Catholic school we work effectively to uphold and nurture the values and beliefs of the Church and we strive to create a welcoming and inclusive community of faith, hope and love.

We celebrate and teach the word of God while at the same time showing authentic public witness to our Christian faith. We want our students to worship publicly as Christians with the love and support of their community and we want them to be strong and confident participants in the Catholic story. We hope they will choose to care for and contribute to this community and that they will be proud to be Catholic.

To put this into practice at St Kieran's we strive to:

- ✚ help each of our members develop their spirituality and come to know Christ as a friend
- ✚ foster Gospel values in all that we do
- ✚ act as peacemakers
- ✚ promote a love of learning
- ✚ foster a sense of justice and compassion and
- ✚ respect the dignity of each person.

We have a dedicated and talented staff that is always striving to promote and nurture quality teaching and learning. The Catholic commitment to love, justice and equality implores us to ensure that all in our community feel they are valued and successful.

Regards

Anna Marsella
Principal

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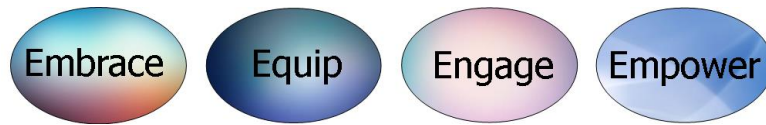
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Our Vision

Embrace Equip Engage Empower



Our Mission:

As a welcoming Catholic school community, St Kieran's promotes Gospel values through relationships based on acceptance, respect, dignity, compassion and the uniqueness of the individual.

As a loving and life-long learning community we are committed to:

Excellence in teaching and learning;

Growth in faith;

Affirmative pastoral care;

Promotion of Social Justice through Leadership.

Our Motto:

"To learn and to love"



A Short History of St Kieran's

St Kieran's Primary School is part of the Catholic Community of North Harbour parish. It is a vibrant and close-knit community, with the school being an integral part of the overall parish life. The school's vision statement reflects strongly this belief in the relationships between the school, the parish and the home. It is seen as a source of strength and unity amongst the groups. The school's motto: "To learn and to love" is highly valued by the whole community – students, parents and teachers.

St Kieran's was one of the parishes that were established on the Northern Beaches from the original parish of Manly. Monsignor McDonald, the legendary Parish Priest of Manly, dedicated the church in honour of the patron saint of his old school, St Kieran's College, in Kilkenny.

The foundation stone of St Kieran's Church/School was laid on 20 April 1952 by the late Bishop Eris O'Brien, on behalf of the late Cardinal Gilroy and the first Mass was celebrated by Rev. Father John Walsh, the assistant priest from Manly. The Augustinian priests took responsibility for the parish in this year. Father D.B. Ormonde OSA was appointed as the first Parish Priest. The Augustinians have provided guidance and support to the school since this time. They have contributed greatly to the everyday life of the school and to its strategic direction.

St Kieran's Parish School was opened in January 1953 with an enrolment of 30 children. In February, 1955, an extension of two classrooms was made to the school/church. The Sisters of the Good Samaritan ran the school from the beginning until 1974 when they handed over the Principalship to a lay person. The Sisters continued to be part of the staff until 1977, when they withdrew from the school altogether.

At the commencement of the school year in 1959, there were 276 children in attendance and so after a fund-raising drive, a local parishioner was appointed to add a second-storey to the existing building.

Early in 1960 a cottage was purchased to serve as a Parish Meeting Place and the school tuckshop. The cottage was eventually demolished to make way for the present church. Another house in King Street was purchased and was used as a classroom and staffroom until it too was demolished to make way for the erection of a new priory for the priests of the parish. This was officially opened in 1980, with the old priory becoming the School Administration block. A new classroom block comprising five general-purpose learning areas was completed in 1983. The Parish Centre and Hall was opened in 1998.

During 2002 there was an extensive rebuilding project that culminated in new administration offices, library, technology centre and one new classroom being opened in October. The playground also received a significant upgrade at this time. In 2006 the Manly Vale parish combined with St Cecilia's parish to become the Catholic Community of North Harbour under the continued direction of the Augustinians.



At the end of 2007 renovations were undertaken to further upgrade the toilet block for students.

The Santa Monica development in King Street allowed for the development of an outdoor play space incorporating play equipment, a sandpit and creative play areas. This area is a “Shared Space” for school use during school hours and resident use at other times.

During 2010 the school underwent a significant building project as part of the Federal Government’s initiative “Building the Education Revolution”. A new multi-purpose classroom was added that allowed for a new undercroft area in the playground. Upgrading and refurbishment of classrooms was also undertaken at this time and classrooms on the first floor were joined by open verandahs which for the first time connected all rooms. The verandahs created additional space for students and a ramp which allows for disabled access was also built as part of this project. Changes to the Parish car park allowed for the organisation of an afternoon drive through to meet the safety needs of families at dismissal time.

At the end of 2017, the library and computer lab were refurbished to become The Hub, a contemporary learning space, aligning with the Broken Bay Learning Principles. During 2020, all remaining classrooms were refurbished.



Our Patron Saint: St Kieran

We know him as St Kieran, but in the Gaelic language there is no letter K . Ciaran Mac an Tsair, or *Ciaran the Son of the Carpenter*, was thought to have been born in 516AD at Cape Clear, Ireland – in south-west Cork. He died on September 9, 540AD of the yellow plague. Ciaran is remembered today as being the founder of the great teaching monastery at Clonmacnoise. He is also remembered for having a number of colourful legends associated with his life.

St Ciaran's formal education was with St Diarmuid of Clonard and St Finian – tutor of the ancient saints of Ireland. One night St Ciaran and St Enda, a fellow student, had the same vision:

... of a great fruitful tree beside a stream, in the middle of Ireland, and it protected the island of Ireland, and its fruit went forth over the sea that surrounded the island, and the birds of the world came to carry off somewhat of its fruit.

Enda interpreted the dream to mean that the great tree was Ciaran, for he was great in the eyes of God and men of all Ireland would be full of his honour. Ciaran was told that the vision meant he should go to the bank of a stream, and there found a church. Ciaran chose Clonmacnoise, on the Shannon River, for the site of his church because of its ideal location at the junction of the river and road travel in Celtic Ireland. Shortly after his arrival, Ciaran met Prince Diarmuid who helped him build the first church – a small wooden structure, and the first of many small churches to be clustered on the site.





Our Curriculum

At St Kieran's we offer a balanced and diverse curriculum, dedicated to the development of the whole child. Our School Mission highlights our commitment to quality teaching and a stimulating learning environment. We are proud of our academic achievement and our ability to meet the needs of individual students.

Everything that happens in schools can be called the *Curriculum*; however, it usually refers to the planned learning activities. In Catholic primary schools the curriculum is divided into seven Key Learning Areas (KLAs). These are:

- ✚ Religious Education
- ✚ English
- ✚ Mathematics
- ✚ Science and Technology
- ✚ Human Society and Its Environment (this KLA comprises History and Geography)
- ✚ Creative Arts
- ✚ Personal Development, Health and Physical Education.

Catholic Schools Broken Bay, our governing body, sets the Religious Education Syllabus. The NSW Education Standards Authority develops the Syllabus Documents (incorporating the Australian Curriculum) for the other six key learning areas.



Religious Education

The Religious Education curriculum acknowledges and supports the parents in their role as the prime educators in the faith of their children. It is designed to develop the student's growth in, and understanding of, the wonder of a faith relationship with God our Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Through the curriculum the children are invited to participate in this faith relationship by learning about the history and traditions of the Catholic Church and the Scriptures. The curriculum content also supports parents in the preparation of their children for the sacraments.

At St Kieran's, our strong relationship with the parish supports us in creating a community that, hand in hand with the parents, fosters our students' faith development.

English

The NSW syllabus for the Australian Curriculum in English was implemented in 2014. At the core of this syllabus is the desire to develop a love of literature, to engage students in critical and reflective practices and to give them the skills and knowledge of language to express themselves with purpose and confidence.

Through responding to and composing a wide range of texts and through a close study of quality texts, students will develop knowledge, understanding and skills through the following content areas:

- Speaking and Listening
- Reading and Viewing
- Writing and Representing
- Spelling
- Grammar, Punctuation and Vocabulary
- Handwriting and Digital Technologies

Students are actively encouraged to think in ways that are imaginative, creative, interpretive and critical. They are provided with opportunities to explore language as a way to express themselves and their relationship with others and with their world.

During 2022 the school is becoming familiar with the new K-2 Syllabus for English and this will be implemented in 2023.

Mathematics

The NSW syllabus for the Australian Curriculum in Mathematics was implemented in 2014. Mathematics is the study of number, patterns and relationships that will lead to the development of concepts and generalisations that can be applied in finding solutions to problems, improving our understanding of the world around us and meeting the needs of specific people. It is a way of thinking characterised by exploring, manipulating, classifying, generalising, abstracting, estimating, calculating, predicting, describing, deducing, drawing and measuring.



Mathematics is a powerful, precise and concise means of communication used to represent, to interpret, to explain and to predict. It is an essential and relevant part of everyday life.

The content of the Mathematics K – 6 syllabus is organised into the following areas:

- Working Mathematically, Number and Algebra,
- Measurement and Geometry, Statistics and Probability.

During 2022 the school is becoming familiar with the new K-2 Syllabus for English and this will be implemented in 2023.

Science and Technology

Science and Technology K–6 develops students' curiosity about natural phenomena and the built environment. It provides students with the opportunity to develop a sense of achievement by using the practical application of knowledge in the development of solutions. It enables them to explore scientific and technological concepts and develop knowledge and understanding of the world. Through the application of Working Scientifically, and Design and Production skills, students develop an interest in and an enthusiasm for understanding nature, phenomena and the built environment. By the end of each Stage, students will have had opportunities to investigate scientifically and apply their knowledge and understanding in the creation of designed solutions.

The five content strands in Science and Technology K–6 are the basis for the continuum of learning and all five content strands are to be delivered by the end of each Stage. These consist of:

- Living World
- Material World
- Physical World
- Earth and Space
- Digital Technologies

An important aspect of Science and Technology is the implementation of STEM strategies and experiences into the teaching and learning program.

STEM is a discipline that combines Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This combination develops problem solving skills in students.

During 2022, the school opened a STEM room. This room contains multiple STEM resources and is designed to be an optimal learning space for students to explore and study STEM.

Human Society and Its Environment

Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE) is the key learning area where students gain an enhanced sense of personal, community, national and global identity and where they are enabled to participate effectively in maintaining and improving the quality of their society and environment.



HISTORY – Content for this KLA is as follows:

- **Early Stage 1** – Personal and Family Histories
- **Stage 1** – The Past and the Present
- **Stage 2** – Australian History: Community & Remembrance, First Contacts
- **Stage 3** – Australian History: Colonial and National
- **Historical Concepts and Skills** – Continuity and change; Cause and effect; Perspectives; Empathetic understanding; Significance; Contestability; Comprehension; Analysis and use of sources; Research; Explanation and communication.

GEOGRAPHY – Content for this KLA is as follows:

- **Early Stage 1** – Places
- **Stage 1** – People and Places
- **Stage 2** – People, Places and Environments
- **Stage 3** – People, Places and Environments of the World
- **Geographical Concepts** – Place; Space; Environment; Interconnection; Scale; Sustainability; Change.
- **Geographical Inquiry Skills** – Acquiring; Processing; Communicating.
- **Geographical Tools** – Maps; Fieldwork; Graphs and Statistics; Spatial Technologies; Visual Representations.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

This key learning area is directly concerned with the development of the student as a whole person. Its implementation has the potential to contribute to improved and ongoing quality of life for all students. It is based on a broad notion of health that encompasses all aspects of an individual's wellbeing, inclusive of social, mental, physical and spiritual health. At St Kieran's our programs focus on encouraging students to make informed decisions related to health and physical activity and develop positive attitudes towards a healthy lifestyle.

The syllabus covers the development of skills under the following domains:

- Self- Management Skills
- Interpersonal Skills
- Movement Skills

The PDHPE K-10 syllabus is shaped by three main content strands:

- Health, Wellbeing and Relationships
- Movement Skill and Performance
- Healthy, Safe and Active Lifestyles

At St Kieran's we employ a specialist Physical Education teacher who works with each class for one lesson per week. In addition, Years 2-6 participate in a school sports program and K-1 in a gross motor program.

Creative Arts

The Creative Arts syllabus is divided into four strands:



- Visual Arts
- Music
- Dance
- Drama

The syllabus is designed to enable students to gain increasing understanding and accomplishment in the four strands. It aims to develop a commitment to participate in, and develop a life-long appreciation of, the arts.

At St Kieran's we have a specialist Music teacher who teaches Years K-4 weekly. The specialist teacher also teaches Years 5 and 6 but works as the Creative Arts teacher for this stage, teaching Dance, Drama and Music to Stage 3. Teachers in grades K-4 cover Dance and Drama in their programs.

We have a strong band program for students in Years 3-6.

Drama is available through a private teacher and lessons are conducted either during lunchtime or after school.



How Do Children Learn?

Everyone should be treated with respect and dignity

We expect that this will be acted out by students, teachers and parents. Children learn best in an environment that values them as a person, and where they can see the adults around them model appropriate behaviour.

Children learn well when they feel safe yet challenged

Our students need reassurance that their efforts are valued and that the significant adults in their lives are encouraging of their attempts to learn. Children need to take some risks in their learning and if they learn to fear making mistakes, their learning will be hampered.

Learning is about making meaning

Children naturally strive to make meaning from their world. Their curiosity leads them to explore their surroundings, solve problems and make sense of things. Children begin this process from babies and it is important that schools recognise that they come to school as problem solvers and continue to learn to develop this skill.

Children learn in different ways and at different rates

Children's level of maturity and stage of development influences whether they are able to learn a particular skill or concept at a particular time. It is important to focus on each child's individual progress and not devalue his or her learning by comparing it to someone else.

Children learn by being actively involved, by watching and by imitating

They learn effectively from each other as well as adults and they deepen their understanding when they explain their thinking or demonstrate their skills to others.

When children experience success, their self-confidence rises and they learn more effectively

As adults we must encourage and support our students and adapt their learning environment to suit their needs to ensure they can succeed and grow in their belief in themselves.

Children learn through play, through handling materials and through solving real-life problems

Because of this, the modern-day classroom can be a very different place from when we were at school. Students are encouraged to use equipment to solve problems and to apply their knowledge to their own life.

Talking helps children learn

Children learn when they ask questions, explain things, hear different points of view or think aloud. Talking is an effective means of clarifying and consolidating ideas and learnings.



Supporting Your Child's Learning

At St Kieran's we acknowledge the valuable role parents play in the education of their children. As a parent you are your child's most enduring teacher. One of the best ways you can help your children learn is to talk with them about things they are really interested in. Adults and friends can help children learn by:

- + giving them lots of time and opportunity for play
- + listening to them
- + answering their questions (even when they are endless)
- + talking with them about things they want to talk about
- + looking at books together
- + valuing the steps they take in their learning journey, no matter how small
- + letting your children see you as a learner
- + showing that you value learning
- + reading and telling stories
- + encouraging their imagination and creative play
- + encouraging them to question
- + providing them with different experiences
- + sharing their excitement about learning and discovering
- + joining in their play when invited
- + giving them lots of encouragement, understanding, affection and acceptance
- + making sure they have a balanced diet, plenty of exercise and adequate sleep
- + having high expectations – of conduct as well as achievement
- + helping set achievable goals and clear guidelines for behaviour
- + praising specifically (eg) “that is a well written sentence”, rather than “Well done”.
- + don't put your worries on children's shoulders

and most importantly ...

- + spend time with them
- + limit device time



How to Become Part of the Life of St Kieran's

Parents are encouraged to take part in the life of St Kieran's school. The extent to which you are able to do this will, of course, depend on your circumstances. Many parents find their time is limited, but there are many ways you can join in without needing to be at the school. Examples of where parents are currently helping out in their own time include designing and maintaining the school's website, covering books at home, helping to make resources, being on committees etc.

Parents can make a better school when they ...

- ✚ make an effort to understand what the school is trying to do
- ✚ see the school as *your* school and encourage your children to see it the same way
- ✚ if possible, participate on committees and attend Parents and Friends meetings and functions
- ✚ welcome new parents and help them feel they belong
- ✚ support a broad and balanced curriculum
- ✚ encourage your children to cooperate fully, to join in all school activities and to take pride in the buildings, the grounds and the school community as a whole
- ✚ take part in the life of the parish, as it is an integral part of St Kieran's
- ✚ always be positive about your school when talking to others. If you have a problem, or are unhappy about something, please tell us
- ✚ go to school activities – open days, plays, concerts, masses, liturgies, celebrations etc.
- ✚ show your children that you have confidence in the school and their teachers



Things You Should Know

Absence from School

Full day absences can be entered via the Compass App on your phone. Please **do not** enter any late arrivals/early departures via the Compass App as this will result in inconsistencies in your child's attendance data. If your child needs to arrive late or depart early on a particular day, go to reception to sign in/out your child via the **Compass Kiosk**.

If, on the day of an absence, you don't provide a reason via the absentee line or Compass, you will receive a text message after 10 am on the same day stating your child is not at school.

If you know that your child will be a late arrival on any particular day you will still receive a text message which will read:

An unexplained absence has been recorded today for (____). If arriving late, please use the kiosk on arrival. For full day absences, click here to explain this absence.
(____)

Absences which remain unexplained will be followed up via email requesting an explanation.

Accidents and Illness

School is not the place for a sick child so we ask that you make other care arrangements on days when your child is not well. Someone will notify you if your child becomes ill at school. We are able to provide temporary care only for a sick child and therefore, parents are expected to collect or arrange for their child to be collected from school if they are ill.

In the event of an accident at school, staff members take appropriate action depending on the severity. Parents are automatically contacted if there is an injury to the head, regardless of how minor it may appear. If the school staff is in any doubt as to the severity of the accident or illness, parents will be immediately notified.

Please keep contact details current by advising the school office of any changes to home, work and mobile phone numbers.

It is imperative that the school is informed of any issues relating to your child's health. We must also have up-to-date contact details for parents and emergency contacts.

Schools are required to notify the NSW Department of Health if any child in the school contracts the following:

- diphtheria
- measles
- meningococcal
- mumps
- pertussis (whooping cough)
- poliomyelitis
- rubella (German measles)
- tetanus



If your child comes down with any of the above, please ring the school office as soon as a diagnosis is made.

Assemblies

Whole school assembly occurs every Monday at 8:45am in the courtyard and some allocated Fridays at 2:00pm in the Parish Centre. Parents are welcome at both. The Monday morning assembly lasts for about 10 minutes. It begins with a prayer, and includes upcoming events, acknowledgements, the singing of the national anthem and the raising of the Australian flag.

Friday assemblies contain a class presentation or a guest speaker, class awards and any other special events. The Year 6 students run these.

Assessment and Reporting

Students are assessed in a number of ways. Diagnostic tests, teacher observations and formal assessment procedures are used throughout the teaching and learning process to improve student learning.

Formal reports are sent home to parents at the end of each semester in June and December. Parents living in separate households both receive a copy of the report.

Parent/Teacher Interviews with all parents are held at the end of Term 1 only.

Parent/Teacher interviews are offered at the end of the year by request.

Before and After School Care

Before and After School Care facilities are offered on the school grounds. Details can be obtained from the school office. Before school care begins at 7am and after school care finishes at 6pm. We do not encourage parents to send children to both before school and after school regularly, as this makes for a very long day.

Birthdays

The teachers are happy for the children to celebrate their birthdays at school, but please make this stress free and mess free by supplying cupcakes, slices or pre-cut cakes. Always ensure you have enough for all members of the class and please take into consideration the allergy issues associated with the individual class.

Bikes

Children in Stage 3 (YR 5 and 6) need to apply to the school to obtain permission to cycle or scoot to school. A permission note can be obtained from the office and needs to be signed by a parent adhering to the ride to school policy.

Buddy System

St Kieran's operates a buddy system between the Kindergarten and Year 6 children. Each kinder child is allocated a buddy for the year. Their buddy then becomes a friendly face in the school and your child can go to them for help and reassurance.

Sometimes the Year 6 children help their Kinder buddies in the classroom.

Bus Passes



Every child who needs a bus pass must apply online to NSW Transport - Student. All children in Kindergarten to Year 2 are automatically eligible for one. Children in other years who live more than 1.6 km in a radial line from the school are also eligible. If your child lives within the radial circle but you feel a free bus pass is necessary due to reasons of safety, medical conditions or walking distance, you may appeal in writing to the Department of Transport. See the office for more details.

Currently three buses depart the school from 3.00pm. The routes are as follows:

Route 614n – Seaforth

St Kieran's, Mackellar Girls High, Kitchener & Wanganella, North Balgowlah, Seaforth Shops

Route 775n – Allambie

St Kieran's, Condamine St & Kentwell Rd, Kentwell & Wandella Rds, Allambie Heights Shops, Skyline Shops, Warringah & Pittwater Rds

Route 779n – Brookvale

St Kieran's, Warringah Mall - Pittwater Rd, Pittwater Rd & Federal Pde

Canteen

The Canteen at St Kieran's is coordinated by a Canteen Manager and run by volunteers.

It is open for Lunch and Recess on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The Canteen uses the online ordering system, Qkr. The healthy menu has been prepared with the assistance of Healthy Kids Association NSW. The Canteen is Allergy Aware and caters to those children in the school with special needs.

Child Protection

At St Kieran's we take our responsibility to protect children seriously. All staff is expected to promote child safety by having a clear understanding of their legal child protection responsibilities and act in accordance with those responsibilities.

In particular the school will:

- 1 Maintain professionalism in our interactions with children at all times by exercising appropriate duty of care and maintaining appropriate professional boundaries.
- 2 Follow an established process to address allegations of inappropriate behaviour by staff towards children.
- 3 Ensure all people working in our school who are required to undertake a Working with Children Check have a valid clearance.
- 4 Respond appropriately when we suspect a child is at risk of significant harm due to possible abuse or neglect by a parent/carer or other adult.

See also Appendix 1: CHILD PROTECTION INFORMATION

Class Parents Network

Class parents act as a liaison between parents, teachers and the Parents and Friends Association. Their duties could include organising social events for the grade and the school. Assisting with fundraising, coordinating helpers and assisting with social events.



The class parents do not act as a person to whom other parents take complaints about teachers, the school or students. Any concerns or issues need to be addressed by the teacher with the parent concerned.

Each term the class parent network meet with the Principal to discuss and share items relating to upcoming events.

Collection of Money

All money sent to school should be placed in an envelope which is clearly marked with the child's name, class, date and reason for collection; e.g. P&F, Fees.

Communication

Good communication between home and school is the key to a positive relationship. Parents are encouraged to speak to their child's teacher whenever they have a concern. Please make an appointment rather than approaching the teachers when they have the students in their care. It is helpful if you alert the teachers to the issue you wish to discuss so they can adequately prepare for the interview.

School level communication occurs through a weekly newsletter (Fridays) and in some cases special flyers or emails. The school office must receive any requests for items to be included in the newsletter by Thursday morning. Both school and class newsletters are available online.'

At a class level communication occurs through the Newsfeed section of the Compass site. See Saw is the app used for communication with Kindergarten parents as well as the Compass site.

If you have any concerns or issues the appropriate course of action is to approach the class teacher and not discuss it amongst other parents, including the class parent.

Compass

Compass is a school platform that assists schools in parent, student and staff communication. Compass can be accessed from an App or desktop and allows parents to access the day-to-day learning in our school.

The parent portal allows parents to:

- Monitor their child's attendance and enter in explanations for late arrivals or absences.
- Communicate with their child's teachers and update their family contact details.
- Monitor homework, assessment tasks and view outstanding learning tasks.
- Download and view their child's progress and semester reports.
- View 'My News', a news feed of school announcements, alerts, Newsletters and updates.
- View their students' timetable and the school calendar.

Complaints

At St Kieran's we take complaints seriously and try to resolve them in the most appropriate, efficient and confidential manner possible:



- If you or your child has a complaint about a student other than your own child you should raise it with your child's class teacher.
- If you or your child has a complaint about a staff member relating to teaching and learning, the issue should first be discussed with the relevant teacher or the principal.
- If you or your child has a complaint about the inappropriate behaviour of a staff member towards any child or young person, your concern should be directed to the Principal and confidentiality must be maintained (see Child Protection).

See also Appendix 2: MAINTAINING PROFESSIONALISM

Discipline

There is no corporal punishment at the school. Discipline practices focus on Quality Behaviour.

Enrolment

Application for enrolment is made directly to the school. This involves the completion of an application form and the presentation of the original Baptismal and Birth certificates. An application fee is paid when the form is returned to the office. An interview takes place, after which time the enrolment committee will meet to decide upon the application.

Excursions

All classes go on excursions, which form an integral part of the children's overall education. They are planned to support a particular unit of work. Excursion costs are billed with the school fees. A small number of parents are usually required to help with each excursion. Teachers will notify parents of the excursion details and a permission note for each child must be signed and returned to the school. It is important that permission notes are signed and returned to enable the child to attend.

Leaving the school during school hours

Children are not permitted to leave the school grounds during school hours. Should a child have an appointment or need to leave the school early for any reason, the class teacher should be informed. Parents should then advise the school through the Compass portal. When students arrive late or are collected early parents enter details through the Compass Kiosk at reception.

If a child needs to be picked up from school by someone other than the authorised person, the class teacher must be notified.

Lost Property

Lost property can be a huge problem in schools. Most of it is caused by items not being labelled. All children's clothing and belongings must be clearly labelled. Any lost property is placed in a container outside room 1 (Kindergarten). Any unlabelled clothing that is not claimed at the end of each term is given to the clothing pool or St Vincent De Paul.

Medical Conditions



It is imperative that the school is notified of any medical condition or allergy your child may have.

Appropriate forms are available at the office.

Medication at School

All schools within the Broken Bay Diocese must follow set guidelines for the dispensing of medication to children. For children on long term, daily medication there are numerous notification/permission slips which need to be collected from the office, completed and returned before medication can be dispensed. No medication will be administered without a doctor's written approval.

In the case of antibiotics, we require permission in writing from a doctor and parent, stating child's name, class, type of medication, dosage and whether it is to be given at 11am and/or 2pm, which is when the office dispenses medication. Medication will not be dispensed without the necessary written permission.

Messages and Telephone Calls

The office is open between 8:30am and 3.30pm. Teachers are unavailable during class time, but a message can be taken and they will return your call at the next available opportunity. Please remember that teachers have playground duties so they may not be able to get back to you until later in the day.

Please ensure your child is aware of the arrangements for their departure from school before they leave home in the morning. We understand that on occasion circumstances change, but as a general rule we ask that you ensure that travel arrangements have been organised before sending your child to school.

Newsletter

A school newsletter is sent to all parents weekly via Compass fortnightly on a Thursday and is also available to be read via the school website. The purpose of the Newsletter is to inform parents of upcoming events, achievements, merit awards and birthdays as well as updates from the Principal, Assistant Principal and religious coordinator about learning and the school-community.

Parent Helpers / Volunteers

The participation, involvement and help of parents, close relative and other volunteers are welcome and appreciated for various activities both in school and on excursions.

It is important that all volunteers are aware that they are subject to child protection legislation. This means all volunteers must:

- sign on at the front office, be inducted and get a visitors badge from the office as per school procedure.
- check with the school what the current requirements are for the working with children
- not engage in any inappropriate behaviour towards any children. In particular although volunteers are technically not employed by the school, they are considered to be 'staff' for legal purposes and need to be aware that complaints about inappropriate behaviour towards any child or young person must be investigated (see Child Protection).

See also Appendix 3: WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS



Parents and Friends Association

The P&F consists of a group of members elected by the school community at an Annual General Meeting held at the end of each year. The P&F supports the school by organising social and fund-raising events. All families are welcome to participate by attending P&F meetings (one every term), social functions and by joining committees.

Funds raised by the P&F are used to assist the school in the purchase of resource materials. In the past these funds have been used to purchase reading books, mathematics equipment, computers, classroom furniture, play and sporting equipment and to upgrade the playground.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is highly valued at St Kieran's. There are a variety of programs which are currently implemented to ensure that the pastoral needs of those in the community are catered for.

St Kieran's is a KidsMatter School. For further information about this, visit –

<https://kidsmatter.edu.au/primary>

There is currently a Pastoral Care Co ordinator at the school.

Picking Up and Dropping Off

Parents are responsible for ensuring that arrangements are made to ensure the safety of their children on the way to school.

The King St car park has a designated drive through and drop off zone (“kiss and drop”) where parents can safely drop off their children before school. Please do not park in this zone at any time. An adult must attend children walking through the car park at all times. Parents are asked to respect the rights of the residents in Gordon St by not double-parking or parking in any of the driveways.

In the afternoon parents picking up their children via the drive through are to display their family name on the front left hand side of the car windscreen. Children being picked from the play area will remain with their teacher as children are not allowed under any circumstances to leave the school premises and meet parents in the car park or side streets. Students catching a bus go straight to the bus lines on dismissal.

Students attending After School Care are sent directly there by the class teacher. If you wish your child to walk home, a permission note must be sent to the school, which is then kept on file. Students crossing the road are seen across by a teacher at the corner of King and Condamine Streets.

School Advisory Committee

There is a School Advisory Committee at St Kieran's based on a model of Pastoral Governance and the belief in a shared wisdom decision making process of discernment.

The purpose of the School Council is to build, strengthen and nourish the school as part of the parish as well as assist the principal in living the mission of the school.

Membership of the School Council is discerned by the local community and commissioned by the Bishop.



School Hours

School hours are from 8:45am to 3:00pm. A warning chime goes at 8:43am and classes line up in designated areas ready for the start of school at 8:45am. Morning tea is from 11:00am to 11:30am and lunch from 12:50pm to 1:50pm.

There is no supervision provided before 8:15am. Parents are asked to ensure children do not arrive at school before this time. At 8:15am, all students are to go to the area being supervised and remain there until the class teacher takes them to class. **There is no supervision provided after 3.15 pm**

School Masses

Throughout the year the school gathers as a whole to celebrate the Eucharist. Parents are always welcome at these Masses. Prayer services are also held in the church to mark various aspects of the liturgical year.

Once a year each stage participates in a Parish Mass. This is always the 5:00pm Sunday Mass. The students in Years 3-6 are encouraged to attend an 8:30am weekday Mass with their class monthly.

School Fees

Invoices are emailed in February which shows the due date for payment per invoice. School fees are payable within 30 days of invoice date. There are a number of options for payment of fees: Eftpos, cash, & BPay. Please contact the school for relevant paperwork. Statements are emailed monthly to the fee payer.

Student Leadership

A shared leadership approach provides all the children with a valuable experience in leadership. The children are given the opportunity to work collaboratively as they work in Leadership Teams identifying and planning initiatives for the school community.

School Website

The school website can be accessed www.skmvdbb.catholic.edu.au

The website provides information regarding the school and parents are encouraged to access the site regularly for updates.

Valuables at School

It is not possible to ensure the safety of valuable or precious belongings brought to school so to avoid the tears and disappointment that come with such an item being lost or broken, we ask you keep them safely at home.

We do not encourage mobile phones being brought to school by children. Please notify the class teacher, in writing, should there be a necessity for your child to have a mobile phone.

Please refer to the Policy *Mobile Phone Guidelines* (Appendix 4)

The school does not accept responsibility for non-school/personal items.

Volunteering



If parents wish to volunteer in any capacity at the school a WHS Induction form and a Working with Children Declaration form must be completed. Both are available from the school office. The Declaration remains current until your child leaves St Kieran's. However, to remain current parents must volunteer at least once in a 12 month period.



Uniform

Students at St Kieran's are encouraged to take pride in themselves and their school and so we ask that as parents you support us in our endeavours to have students in full school uniform at all times. A comprehensive uniform list is printed below. Uniforms are available from Pickles School Wear, 43 Carter Road Brookvale.

To order please go to the Pickles website. www.pickleschoolwear.com

| GIRLS | BOYS |
|---|--|
| Summer Uniform | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls Summer Dress White short socks Black leather polishable shoes—no coloured markings of any type | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White short sleeved shirt Navy shorts Navy socks Black leather polishable shoes—no coloured markings of any type |
| Winter Uniform | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls Winter Navy Uniform Girls Winter white long sleeved shirt with peter pan collar Navy tab tie Navy cardigan, V-neck top or zip jacket Knee high navy socks or navy tights Black leather polishable shoes—no coloured markings of any type | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White long sleeve shirt Navy long pants School tie Navy baseball or zip jacket or V-neck top Navy socks Black leather polishable shoes—no coloured markings of any type |
| Sports Uniform | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unisex short sleeve polo shirt with school emblem Unisex long sleeve polo shirt with school emblem Navy pleated sports skirt /skort /or unisex shorts Navy dance pants White socks White sandshoes—minimal coloured markings Unisex Navy track / jacket / pants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blue collared T-shirt with school emblem Navy sports shorts White socks White sandshoes—minimal coloured markings Navy tracksuit / jacket / pants |



Accessories

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wide brimmed hat• Unisex bucket hat• White ankle socks – summer• School backpack• School excursion /sports bag• Aliceband summer – thick/thin• Aliceband winter – thick/thin• Scrunchie – summer/winter• Soft headband – summer• Unisex raincoat jacket in a bag | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Legionnaire cap – one size• Unisex bucket hat• Boys navy ankle socks – summer & winter• School backpack• School excursion/sports bag• Unisex raincoat jacket in a bag |
|---|--|

Unisex Jumpers and Jackets

- Unisex knitted navy wool jumper
- Unisex polar fleece vest
- Unisex polar fleece ¼ zip jacket

General

- School hat to be worn daily when outdoors—either legionnaire, wide brim or bucket styles. Hat flaps must be worn down
 - Students must ensure they have the correct backpack with the school logo
 - No wrist or neck jewellery to be worn
 - Stud earrings only
 - School winter shirts must be worn tucked in
 - Students' hairstyles must conform to the following:
 - Hair should be neatly cut
 - Undercut styles are not acceptable (Including tracks/lines)
 - Collar or longer length hair must be tied back neatly with a plain elastic, a ribbon, scrunch, or a headband.
 - Hair is not to be tinted or coloured.
-



Safeguarding

Catholic Schools Broken Bay commits to providing safe communities for students at our school to grow and learn. We recognise the rights of children and promote safe and supportive environments where we all have a responsibility to keep children safe from harm.

Safeguarding at CSBB includes:

1. Utilising best practice, child rights and child safe principles to ensure continuous improvement in the area of safeguarding therefore maintaining our responsibility under the *National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and NSW Child Safe Standards*.
2. Maintaining professionalism in our interactions with children and young people at all times by exercising appropriate duty of care and maintaining appropriate professional boundaries.
3. Following an established process to address concerns or complaints of inappropriate behaviour of staff towards children or young people. This upholds our legal obligation under the *Children's Guardian Act 2019*.
4. Ensuring that all people working in our school who are required to undertake a Working With Children Check have a verified clearance, as per requirements under *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*.
5. Promoting the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children by responding appropriately when we suspect a child or young person is at risk of significant harm due to possible abuse or neglect. This is our legal obligation under the *NSW Children and Young Person (care and protection) Act 1998*

PARENT/CARER HELPERS / VOLUNTEERS AND CONTRACTORS

The participation, involvement and help of parents/carers, close relatives and other volunteers are welcome and appreciated for various activities both in school and on excursions. We recognise that parents and carers are the primary educators for their children and we strive to uphold NSW Child Safe Standard 3: *families and communities are informed and involved* and National Catholic Safeguarding Standard 3: *partnering with families, carers and communities*.

It is important that all volunteers and contractors are aware that they may be subject to child protection legislation and may require a WWCC. This means all volunteers must:

- Sign on at the front office, and get a visitors badge from the office as per school procedure.
- Complete the [CSBB Contractor and Volunteer Engagement form](#)
- Follow our commitment to Safeguarding and not engage in any inappropriate behaviour towards any children. Although volunteers are technically not employed by the school, they are considered to be 'employees' under the Children's Guardian Act 2019 and need to be aware that complaints about inappropriate behaviour towards a child or young person is subject to investigation.



RESPONDING TO CONCERNS

We believe in listening to children and our school community when concerns are raised. We take complaints seriously and try to resolve them in the most appropriate, efficient, and confidential manner possible.

APPENDIX 1: SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

We are committed to providing safe communities for students at our school to grow and learn as outlined in our [Diocesan Commitment to Safeguarding](#). We recognise the rights of children as outlined in the [Diocesan Framework on the Rights of the Child](#) and promote safe and supportive environments where we all have a responsibility to keep children safe from harm.

The NSW Child Safe Standards (NSWCSS) and the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) provide a principle-based framework that our school commits to using for continuous improvement as part of our commitment to Safeguarding.

Responding to Risk of Significant Harm

All school staff are Mandatory Reporters. This means that if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm of abuse or neglect, then a report must be made to the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ), Child Protection Helpline (CP Helpline). School staff and Principals are supported by the CSBB Safeguarding Office as required and all records are stored confidentially.

We recognise that a statutory response is not always required and where a family may need extra support, we will assist in making referrals to support the family if needed.

APPENDIX 2: WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS

Working With Children Checks are required by staff, and certain volunteers and contractors in our school, as outlined in Child Protection (Working With Children) Act 2012.

The purpose of the check is to exclude people from working with children and young people who are not suitable. A person who has been convicted or found guilty of a listed serious offence against children (whether in NSW or elsewhere) is prohibited from child-related employment.

Parent participation, involvement and help are welcome and appreciated for various activities both in school and on excursions. It is important to note that all parent helpers / volunteers are subject to child protection legislation.

Further information on the Working With Children Check can be found on the website for the [Office of the Children's Guardian](#).

APPENDIX 3: MAINTAINING PROFESSIONALISM



All staff, volunteers and contractors are expected to act professionally and in accordance with the school's expectations regarding staff conduct toward children and young people. Guidance and professional development about appropriate interactions with students, how to exercise duty of care and how to maintain professional boundaries is provided.

We understand that staff, volunteers and contractors have a duty of care to:

- Ensure no child or young person is exposed to foreseeable risk of harm;
- Take action to minimise risk;
- Supervise actively, and report concerns to the Principal or seek further advice if they see others acting inappropriately with children or young people.

Staff, volunteers and contractors are expected to:

- Demonstrate appropriate relationships with children and young people that cannot be misinterpreted as overly personal or intimate;
- Remain within the responsibilities of their roles and allow those appropriately trained to deal with student welfare concerns;
- Minimise physical contact with children and young people unless it is necessary to exercise appropriate duty of care;
- Follow the school's policies and procedures relating to pastoral care and wellbeing including serious incidents and reporting risk of harm.

Addressing complaints of inappropriate behaviour of adults towards children and young people

We are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for both students and staff. This includes addressing complaints of inappropriate behaviour of staff, volunteers and contractors towards any child or young person.

Such complaints are handled differently to other types of complaints which may arise in the school because of legal obligations established by the NSW Children's Guardian Act 2019. The NSW Office of the Children's Guardian is a government agency which requires schools and other organisations working with children and young people to ensure systems are in place for recording and responding to all allegations of a child protection nature against staff, volunteers and contractors.

If you have concerns about alleged inappropriate behaviour by staff, volunteers or contractors towards any child or young person it is important that you discuss your concerns with the Principal who in turn will consult with the CSBB'S Safeguarding Office.

APPENDIX 4:

Mobile Phone Guidelines

1. RATIONALE

Mobile phones and smartwatches have become an important part of our modern lifestyle.

The school understands that there may be times when possession of a mobile phone can provide a sense of safety and security while travelling to and from school.



Purpose

The school aims to provide a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment for all students. The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that mobile phone usage does not disrupt this learning environment.

These guidelines aim to clarify the responsibilities of staff, students and parents with regards to the use of mobile phones at school.

2. IMPLEMENTATION

Students: The school does not accept any liability if mobile phones or smartwatches are brought to school.

Mobile phones brought to school must remain in the school bag and must not be taken out for use during school time.

Students who may feel the need to contact parents during the day must inform their teacher and go to the school office. Students are not to contact parents via mobile phone.

Staff: Staff mobile phones are to be switched off / silent profile during meetings, playground duty and class sessions.

Teaching staff are not to use mobile phones to receive or make calls or text during meetings, playground duty and class sessions.

NB: staff are to be contacted via the school office. All staff are requested not to give out their personal mobile phone number.

Parents: Parents needing to contact their child during the school day can do so via the school office (9949 3523). Changes to travel arrangements must be communicated through the school office where the message will be passed on to the students. Parents must not contact their child directly via mobile phone and smartwatch.

Parents are asked to turn off their mobile phones when attending school liturgies, attending School Assemblies (Monday and Friday) and when volunteering in the classrooms, so that there is no disruption to the school's program of teaching and learning.

3. EVALUATION:

These guidelines will be reviewed in 2025



Glossary of Terms

ABSC

After and Before School Care.

AP

Assistant Principal – currently at St Kieran's our Assistant Principal is the Learning Support Teacher and has other administrative and curriculum responsibilities.

Assessment & Reporting

Teachers continually assess and gather data about each child's progress. Formal reports are sent home at the end of Semester 1 and 2. Formal Parent Teacher interviews at the end of Term 1.

CSBB

Catholic Schools Broken Bay is the administrative head office for all Diocesan Systemic schools. Its offices are in Pennant Hills.

ESL

English as a Second Language. A term which refers to any students whose first language is not English.

HSIE

A Key Learning Area comprising History and Geography.

KLA

Key Learning Area – defined by the NSW Education Standards Authority. There are 7 key learning areas taught in a Catholic school – Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Human Society and Its Environment, Creative Arts and Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

Learning Support

The Learning Support Program is organised by the Learning Support Teacher who liaises with Learning Support Assistants, parents, CSBB consultants and teachers to gather data and plan teaching and learning programs to meet the needs of children with specific learning needs. Learning needs can often be academic, physical, social, emotional and behavioural. Counselling is available should this be required.

LBOTE

Language Background Other than English. A term which refers to students who are exposed to another language at home

Mufti Day

A day when students are allowed to wear their everyday clothes rather than school uniform. Sometimes these days require the student to bring a gold coin as a donation to a nominated charity.

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy is a National Test for all students in Years 3 and 5.

NESA

NSW Education Standards Authority – established in 2017 to serve government and non-government schools in the development of school education for years K-12. It develops curriculum and is responsible for the registering of schools



Outcomes

More precisely, Student Learning Outcomes. All Board of Studies curriculums are written in terms of outcomes. These are statements that describe the knowledge or skills children should develop as a result of their learning.

P&F

Parents and Friends Association – All parents are warmly invited to join our school's P&F. Contact the school office for further details.

PD/H/PE

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

PP

Parish Priest

RE

Religious Education

REC

Religious Education Coordinator – currently at St Kieran's the REC shares the role with that of Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

School Leadership Team

The senior staff of the school (Principal, Assistant Principal, Religious Education Coordinator and Coordinators) who meet regularly to discuss school policy, procedures strategic directions based on annual School Improvement Goals.

SIP Goals

Goals derived from the School Improvement Plan negotiated in consultation with staff, students and parents.

SDD

Staff Development Day – a pupil-free day where the whole staff are involved in some form of professional development. There are five such days each year.

WH&S

Workplace Health and Safety.



