
NEWS from the HEART...

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School
10 McCann Crescent, Lenah Valley



11 February 2026

***'God of grace and new beginnings,
bless our community as we begin this school year.
May the Immaculate Heart of Mary guide us,
and the spirit of Mary MacKillop strengthen us,
so that all we do gives life to others.
Amen.'***

Welcome

A warm welcome to the 2026 school year at Immaculate Heart of Mary. We are delighted to see our new Kinder families joining us and to welcome back our staff and returning families. Guided by our Catholic values and the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we look forward to a year of learning, growth, and joy, where every child is supported to discover their gifts, find their voice, and flourish.

This year is a particularly special one for Immaculate Heart of Mary. On Thursday, our new Early Years classrooms opened to our Prep - Grade 2 students and our Performing Arts and Learning Support spaces are now buzzing with activity. Already, we can feel the excitement, joy, and positive impact throughout our community.

The grand finale of the project is the entrance from McCann Crescent into the heart of our school. In the words of Luke, our foreman, the Maveric Team are building their way out! Until this is complete, Edge Avenue continues to be our Kiss and Drop zone.

We sincerely thank our staff and the Maveric team for their extraordinary efforts in ensuring the school was ready to open last week. Once our project is fully complete, we aim to have a "Welcome to the Heart" event for all our families.

Welcome Liturgy

Yesterday, we came together as a faith community for our Welcome Liturgy, giving thanks for new beginnings and asking God's blessing for the year ahead. Guided by the Immaculate Heart of Mary and inspired by the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we commissioned our school leaders as they take up their roles of service within our community. It was wonderful to have so many families join us for this special celebration.

Congratulations to our 2026 School Leaders:

School Captains	Molly Fulton & Billy Smith
Dillon Captains	Dottie Page & Addi Page
Donohoe Captains	Elsie Mesfin & Harry Halloran
Young Captains	Toby Marsh & Abi Balmer




Welcome (Parent / Teacher) Conversations

Welcome Conversations will take place in Week 4 of Term 1. These early-year meetings are an important opportunity to strengthen our partnership with families and to ensure we are working together to support each child's learning, wellbeing and growth.

All meetings will be held in the Grade 3 and Grade 4 classrooms. Bookings will open on Compass next week, and all parents and carers are encouraged to attend.

Policies and Procedures

As a Catholic school in Tasmania, Immaculate Heart of Mary follows the policies and procedures of Catholic Education Tasmania. These guide our daily practice and support a safe, inclusive, and respectful learning environment for all students. We encourage parents/carers to familiarise themselves with these policies, as we work together in partnership to uphold the well-being, dignity, and learning of every child in our care.



What to do if you are a PARENT and you have a complaint

Contact the student's classroom teacher or another school staff member

If your complaint is not resolved

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Contact a senior school leader (e.g. Deputy Principal/Principal)

If your complaint is not resolved

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Contact the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office via:

- the Feedback Portal (<https://catholic.tas.edu.au/contact-us/>) or
- by emailing feedback@catholic.tas.edu.au or
- writing to Feedback, TCCEO, PO Box 102, North Hobart, 7002, marking it Private and Confidential.

If you do not feel comfortable raising your concerns at school level or if your complaint is about the school Principal, you can raise your complaint with the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office via:

- the Feedback Portal (<https://catholic.tas.edu.au/contact-us/>) or
- by calling 03 6210 8888 during business hours or
- by emailing feedback@catholic.tas.edu.au or
- by writing to Feedback, TCCEO, PO Box 102, North Hobart, 7002.


If your complaint is about the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office, you can raise your complaint with the Catholic Education Commission Tasmania:

- by emailing cecomt@cect.tas.edu.au or
- by writing to CECT Chair, PO Box 102, North Hobart, 7002, marking it Private and Confidential.



Scan to access the feedback portal

Complaints Management | Parents
February 2023



What to do if you are a STUDENT and you have a complaint

Contact your classroom teacher or another school staff member:

If your complaint is not resolved

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Contact a senior school leader (e.g. Deputy Principal/Principal)

If your complaint is not resolved

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Contact the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office via:


- the Feedback Portal (<https://catholic.tas.edu.au/contact-us/>) or
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Complaints Management | Students
February 2023

Every minute counts...

Attendance at school every day matters!

 Give yourself enough time All that rushing around can create anxiety and stress for you and your child.	 Create a routine It can be easier when everyone knows what they need to do in the morning - or even better - get some things done the night before!
 Be on time, every day. They say it takes two months for our brains to create a new habit. So just take it a day at a time and aim to be consistent.	 Set some technology boundaries. Its important for your child to have a brain break and just switch off from their technology.
 Get a good night's sleep. It's amazing what a good bit of shut-eye can do to help your child learn and stay engaged with school.	 Know when to get help If your child is refusing to go to school it can be very worrying. Your school is here to help you re-engage your child in their learning For more information talk to your school and go to: https://anything.tas.gov.au/

Catholic Education Tasmania

Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day

On Shrove Tuesday, 17 February, our school will celebrate Pancake Day. Pancakes will be served to students after first play. We invite students to bring a gold coin donation to support Project Compassion, helping people in need around the world.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy

Families are warmly invited to join us for our Ash Wednesday Liturgy, which will be held in the school hall at 1.40pm. This liturgy marks the beginning of Lent.

Project Compassion

Project Compassion boxes will be sent home with students next week. Families are encouraged to support this initiative, with boxes to be returned by Easter. Thank you for your generosity and ongoing support.

CARITAS AUSTRALIA
PROJECT
COMPASSION

Nurturing Hearts - Birth to 4 Years Program

Our Nurturing Hearts Program will commence on Friday 27 February in Kindergarten. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn with your child and connect with our families. Mrs Brook and Mrs Wall can't wait to see you!

Kinder Enrolment

Kindergarten 2027 enrolments are now open and close on the 15 May.

Grade 7 Enrolments

As part of the enrolment process for Catholic Secondary Colleges for Grade 7 in 2027, parents are asked to submit enrolment applications to their preferred secondary school for Grade 7 by 13 March 2026. This includes enrolments to Sacred Heart College. To complete this, you must contact the school of your preference. We are always happy to support families with enrolment enquiries and help you with the application process if needed.

Volunteers WWVP Cards

We love volunteers! In order to volunteer, it is a requirement that you hold a current Working with Vulnerable People card. Does your WWVP card require renewal?

Renew early

Jump the queue
Renew your RWVP early

Did you know that you can renew your Registration to Work with Vulnerable People (RWVP) up to **3 months** before it expires?

It's easy: Check your RWVP card to see when it expires, then renew early at MyRWVP

Visit: justice.tas.gov.au/rwvp/apply-or-renew/renew-your-rwvp

Your renewed RWVP will begin from the date that your current RWVP expires.

rwvp Registrations to Work with Vulnerable People

Medication at School

Medication at school Parent responsibilities

- ✓ Complete and submit the Authorisation for Administration of Medication form annually or whenever medication requirements change.
- ✓ Ensure medication is supplied ready to administer in the exact form and dosage required, as staff must not modify medication. (e.g. cutting tablets).
- ✓ Supply medication that is in-date and provided in a pharmacy-labelled container or a pharmacy-prepared Webster-pak
- !!! Medication should never be sent in unlabelled bags, food containers, lunch boxes, or any other unsuitable packaging.
- ✓ Advise the school promptly of any changes to their child's medication, medical condition, or treatment plan.
- ✓ For self-administration, provide written permission from a medical practitioner, dentist, pharmacist, authorised nurse practitioner or optometrist using the Authorisation for the Administration of Medication form

Thank you for your support in keeping the students safe at school

Focus From the Heart

Whole School Positive Behaviour Support Framework

PBS is an evidence-based, tiered framework for supporting students' behavioural, academic, social, emotional, and mental health. PBS is proven to improve social emotional competence, academic success, and school climate when implemented in a schoolwide construct. It is a way to create positive, predictable, equitable and safe learning environments where everyone thrives.

Attached for our school community are two key documents in this journey. The first is our Positive Behaviour Support Matrix, which outlines our three key expectations, and the actions that will be taught and demonstrated throughout our school. The second is our Behaviour Flowchart, which outlines the processes for dealing with behaviour when things don't go to plan, and how we can best learn from things for the future.

This year, we are reviewing our PBS documentation and how it is used in our school. The most important component of this is student voice. Over the coming weeks, students across all classes will be guided through a feedback process that will form the foundation of the review. We will keep the community updated on this process in forthcoming Newsletters.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School Minor and Major Behaviours



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School Positive Behaviour Support Matrix



	All the time, everywhere	Learning Spaces	Transitions	Playtime	Gatherings
Be a Learner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in all activities to the best of your ability Include and encourage others Looking at and listening to the person speaking Help others succeed Understand we all behave and learn differently Use toilets during break times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listen to and follow directions Be an active learner Ask for help when needed Accept and respond to feedback Technology as a learning tool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be organised with all belongings Be quiet and aware that others are learning Be on time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a good winner and loser in games Show fairness in all games Use positive strategies to solve problems Follow wet weather expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in songs, prayers and events Celebrate the success of others
Be Safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep hands, feet & objects to yourself Be aware of others Follow the expectations of the place you are in Choose the right thing to do when no one is watching Be kind to yourself and others Speak up when something feels wrong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move around learning spaces appropriately Stay in your learning spaces Follow ICT Agreement when using a device 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move carefully Line up with your class and wait patiently Stay to the left, look to the front Enter play spaces when duty teacher arrives Walk between spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek an adults help straight away when needed Use equipment safely and appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow directions Be aware of others' personal space
Be Respectful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show good manners by acting and speaking respectfully Value personal and school environment Listen when others are speaking Appreciate others ideas Be a role model for younger students Wear your uniform with pride Consider the privacy and personal space of others Accept feedback and decisions positively 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gain attention by raising your hand Allow others to participate in learning Work cooperatively and allow others to contribute Treat devices with care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walk and wait quietly Stop your game when the ball goes Be on time Hold equipment still Calm body, calm voice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put food and rubbish in your lunchbox or bin Be thoughtful of others and their space with your games Look after school property and the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move to and from Gatherings respectfully Listen when others are speaking Calm body Move silently during transitions

From Discovery - Outside School Hours Care

'Dear Immaculate Heart OSHC families,

As we commence our OSHC program for the new year 2026, we are pleased to share that we will now be operating from the **Main Hall** again.

We would also like to warmly welcome our new OSHC Person in Charge, **Tyrone Gibson**, to Our Centre. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead.'



Key Dates

Please see the following school dates from Catholic Education Tasmania.

2026	
Term One Resume (Teaching Staff)	Monday 2 February 2026
Term One Resume (Students)	Friday 6 February 2026
Term One Concludes (Students)	Thursday 16 April 2026
Term One Concludes (Teaching Staff)	Friday 17 April 2026
Term One Student (Non-Attendance Time)	Monday 20 April 2026 – Friday 01 May 2026
Easter (Good Friday)	03 April 2026
Easter (Easter Monday)	06 April 2026
Easter (Easter Tuesday)	07 April 2026
Term Two (Staff and Students Resume)	Monday 04 May 2026
Term Two (Concludes)	Friday 10 July 2026
Term Two Student Non-Attendance Time	Monday 13 July 2026 – Monday 27 July 2026
Term Three Resume (Teaching Staff)	Monday 27 July 2026
Term Three Resume (Students)	Tuesday 28 July 2026
Term Three Concludes	Friday 02 October 2026
Term Three Student Non-Attendance Time	Monday 05 October 2026 – Friday 16 October 2026
Term Four Resume (Students and Teaching Staff)	Monday 19 October 2026
Student Free Day	Friday 23 October 2026
Year 10 Students Conclude	Friday 11 December 2026
Students Conclude	Thursday 17 December 2026*
Teaching Staff Conclude	Friday 18 December 2026*

Calendar of Events

Thu 12 Feb	Canteen Day
Fri 12 Feb	Canteen Day
Tue 17 Feb	Shrove Tuesday Pancakes
Tue 17 Feb	Uniform Shop open 2.30pm – 4.00pm
Wed 18 Feb	Ash Wednesday Liturgy 1.40pm (Hall)
Wed 18 Feb	Canteen Day
Thu 18 Feb	Canteen Day
Fri 19 Feb	Canteen Day
Tue 24 Feb	Assembly 1.40pm
Tue 24 Feb	Welcome Conversations
Tue 24 Feb	Uniform Shop open 2.30pm – 4.00pm
Wed 25 Feb	Canteen Day
Fri 27 Feb	Nurturing Hearts 9.00am – 10.30am



Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic School is located in Nipaluna on the Traditional Lands of the Muwinina people of the South East Nation who lived with and cared for this Land for many generations.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Palawa people, and the deep connection they have to Country and Culture. We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Tasmanian Aboriginal Community and to Elders past and present.

We are committed to learning as a part of this community, and to supporting the continued sharing of knowledge and culture.