



Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



**OUR LADY'S SCHOOL**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**27 February 2026**  
**olsunshine.catholic.edu.au**

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Peter-Damien McKinley  
**Principal:** Mrs Caroline Madigan  
**Parish Mass Times:**  
English: Saturday 9.00am, 5.30pm, Sunday 9:00am, 10.30am & 5:30pm  
Vietnamese: Saturday 7.00pm, Sunday 12.30pm, Friday 7.30pm  
Chin Hakha/Burmese: 2.30pm  
Tongan: Every 1st Sunday 3.00pm  
**School Phone:** 9312 2230  
**School website:** www.olsunshine.catholic.edu.au

*Our Lady's is a Child Safe School*



*Christ beside me: Walking in the footsteps of St Patrick*

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

- Mon 2 Mar** 8.30am Smoking Ceremony
- Wed 4 Mar** 7.00pm Foundation Parent Learning Info Session
- Mon 9 Mar** Labour Day Public Holiday
- Wed 11 Mar** NAPLAN begins for Yrs 3&5
- Tues 17 Mar** P&F AGM
- Wed 18-Fri 20 Mar** Yrs 5/6 Camp
- Tues 24 Mar** 6.30 Reconciliation Parent Night
- Wed 25 Mar** 5.00pm Foundation Family Picnic
- Thur 2 Apr** End of Term 1 at 1.00pm
- Mon 20 Apr** *Closure Day - Professional Development for Staff (Literacy). No School for the children*
- Tues 21 Apr** Start of Term 2
- Wed 22 Apr** 7.00pm Student Well-being Parent Info Session

**2026 Professional Development Days for staff**

- Term 2**
- Mon 20 April - Literacy Focus
- Fri 5 June - Report Writing (Semester 1)
- Term 4**
- Mon 2 November - Report Writing Semester 2
- Friday 27 November - 2027 Planning

**1:00pm finish days at the end of each term**

- Term 1 - Thur 2 April
- Term 2 - Fri 26 June
- Term 3 - Fri 18 September
- Term 4 - Tues 15 December (last day of the 2026 school year for students).

- Term 2 - Three Way Conversations (First Semester Reports)
- Wed 24 and Thur 25 June

**SACRAMENT DATES FOR 2026**

- Year 3 Reconciliation*
- Wednesday 29 April at 6.00pm
- Year 4 Eucharist*
- Sunday 17 May at 10.30am
- Year 6 Confirmation*
- Friday 31 July at 7.00pm

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our School Community,

As we journey together into the sacred season of Lent, there is a beautiful sense of purpose and reflection evident across both our school and parish communities. Lent invites us to pause, to pray, to give, and to grow and already we are seeing these values lived out so meaningfully in the daily life of our children.

There is a wonderful “buzz” within the parish and the school as we begin this special time in the Church’s calendar. It has been heartening to witness the enthusiasm of our students as they engage in prayerful reflection and acts of kindness and service. We are also deeply grateful for the ongoing support our school and parish community continue to receive. Your generosity of spirit, encouragement, and presence strengthen the partnership that makes our community so special. Together, we are nurturing not only young minds, but compassionate and faith-filled hearts.



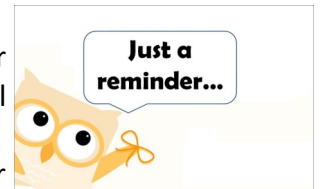
**School Uniform Reminder**

As the warmer weather continues, this is a gentle reminder that students should still be wearing their summer school uniform, including their school hat.

Teachers have noticed that some students are wearing their wet weather jacket as a substitute for the school jumper.

The wet weather jacket is an additional item intended for rainy days and is designed for outdoor wear. Students will be asked to remove their wet weather jacket while in the classroom. If they are feeling cold, they are most welcome to wear their school jumper instead. Please be assured that all classrooms are equipped with up-to-date systems to ensure the temperature is maintained at a comfortable level for learning.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring your child comes to school in the correct summer uniform and is prepared with appropriate options should the weather change. Your partnership in these small but important matters helps foster a sense of pride and unity within our school.



**God loves me!**



Thank you, God, for loving me, I’m so happy that you do  
It’s good to know you’re always there, standing with me too  
I know I’m sometimes naughty and sometimes get things wrong  
But you’ll always love me anyway, and with you I belong  
There’s nothing I could ever do, to make you love me less, so than you, God, for loving me, even when I make a mess!

*‘God loved the people of the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die’ John 3:16*

## Exciting Learning Ahead

As the term progresses, our students have been engaged in rich and meaningful learning experiences. It has been a joy to see their curiosity, creativity, and collaboration flourish in the classroom.

Exciting  
times  
ahead.

Over the coming weeks, we have a number of excursions and incursions planned to further enhance classroom learning. These opportunities allow students to deepen their understanding and make real-world connections in engaging ways. We encourage you to speak with your child about what they are learning and to share in their excitement and discoveries.

May this Lenten season continue to be one of grace and renewal for your family. Thank you for your ongoing support, faith, and commitment to our shared mission.

Wishing you all a restful and blessed weekend.

Warm regards,

*Caroline Madigan*

**Mrs Caroline Madigan**

**Principal**

[principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au)





Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools



# OUR LADY'S SCHOOL SUNSHINE 2027 FOUNDATION ENROLMENT

## OPEN NOW

Our Lady's is a Catholic Primary School  
serving the Parish of Our Lady's  
Sunshine



32 Station Place Sunshine 3020  
[www.olsunshine.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olsunshine.catholic.edu.au)

## ENROLMENT FORMS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE

**Tours Available**  
Bookings essential  
Tues 5 May 9.30am  
Wed 13 May 9.30am  
Mon 18 May 4.00pm  
Tues 21 July 9.30am



PLEASE  
BOOK A  
TOUR VIA  
OUR  
WEBSITE



9312 2230



[www.olsunshine.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olsunshine.catholic.edu.au)



[enquiries@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au](mailto:enquiries@olsunshine.catholic.edu.au)





# ***Student Wellbeing Parent Information evening***

Focus: Zones of Regulation; Self-regulation; Executive Functioning; Ways you can help at home.

*Aimed mainly at new families to our school, especially parents of children in years F-1 and for families who did not attend a similar evening in 2024.*

## **When: Wednesday 22nd April at 7:00pm**





# MARIAN COLLEGE



**DISCOVERY  
DAY 2026**

To book get in touch with our Transition and Community Participation Leader  
Shelley Smith at [ssmith@mariansw.vic.edu.au](mailto:ssmith@mariansw.vic.edu.au)  
or contact on 9363 1711



Get ready for Discovery Day, a chance to explore, create and experience everything our girls' secondary college has to offer.

From hands-on activities to inspiring learning experiences, it's the perfect opportunity to discover what makes Marian College such a vibrant and supportive place to learn.

Don't miss your chance to dive in, try something new, and let your curiosity lead the way.



A Kildare Education Ministries Catholic School for  
Girls in the Brigidine Tradition  
196 Glengala Road, Sunshine West VIC 3020  
0393631711  
[mariansw.catholic.edu.au](http://mariansw.catholic.edu.au)

**STRONG FUTURES**  
*gentle hearts*

# Collection notice for parents/guardians

## 2026 Student residential address and other information collection (address collection)

The Australian Government Department of Education (the department) would like to notify you that we have requested for your child's school to provide residential address and other information.

Under the Australian Education Regulations 2023, the school is required to provide the department with the following information about each student at the school:

- names and residential addresses of the student's parent(s) and/or guardian(s)
- student residential address (**excluding student names**)
- whether the student is a primary or secondary student (education level)
- whether the student is boarding or a day student (boarding status).

The school collects the above information by generating a **unique and unidentifiable** student reference number (SRN) for each student record. The school only uses the SRN for this collection. **The SRN cannot be used for any other purpose.** The number only indicates to the department that each record provided is for one student.

## Purpose of the collection

The address collection informs Australian Government school education policy and helps ensure funding for non-government schools is based on need.

The information collected is used to inform school funding calculations. It is combined with Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data to calculate a non-government school community's anticipated capacity to contribute to schooling costs, known as the capacity to contribute (CTC) score. More information is available on the [CTC page](#).

## Use and disclosure of personal information

**Your personal information is protected by law** under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) (the Privacy Act). Personal information is information or an opinion about an identifiable individual. Personal information includes an individual's name and contact details.

Any use or disclosure of your personal information must occur in accordance with the Privacy Act, the *Australian Education Act 2013* and Australian Education Regulations 2023.

Your personal information provided to the department through the collection may be:

- disclosed to the ABS for the purposes of the ABS linking names and address(es) with their personal income taxation data using the capacity to contribute calculations and analysis as a part of the Person Level Integrated Data Asset (PLIDA – previously known as MADIP). Find more information about PLIDA on the ABS website [PLIDA page](#)

- disclosed to an authorised person (for example, contracted auditor or identified departmental official) where the department may audit a school's collection submission. The authorised person compares the school's submission with the student enrolment information. The authorised person will not use the information for any other purpose
- disclosed to our service providers for the purpose of providing the department with information and communications technology support
- used or disclosed where it is otherwise required or authorised by law.

The department does not intend to disclose your personal information to any overseas recipients.

Aggregated information will be provided to your school in the form of school level median income for the last 3 years, rounded to the nearest \$5,000. This information is provided to help your school understand their level of government funding. Your personal income information **will not** be provided to your school.

Find the department's privacy policy on the [Department of Education web site](#). This includes information on:

- how individuals can access and modify personal information held by the department
- how complaints about potential breaches or breaches of the Privacy Act can be made
- how the department will deal with these complaints.

In association with this, the department commissioned an independent Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA). The PIA assessed the flows of information under the address collection, compliance with the Privacy Act and measures in place to safeguard the personal information being collected. The current version is available on the [Department of Education web site](#).

## What do you need to do?

You are not required to do anything. Your school is responsible for providing the department with the requested details; however, you can contact the school to update your family's details.

## Contacts for further information

Your school can provide additional information about the address collection process.

Alternatively, please visit the [EducationHUB address collection page](#).

# What Schools and Families Need to Know About the Social Media Age Ban

*By Dr Justin Coulson*

Australia's new social media minimum-age legislation has prompted strong reactions from parents and schools alike. Some families feel relieved; others are frustrated or unsure whether anything has really changed.

For parents of children aged **5–18**, this moment matters. Here's a clear, practical overview of what the ban means — and what families can do now.

## What the Law Does — and Doesn't Do

The legislation restricts children under 16 from accessing major social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and Snapchat.

Key points for families:

- Responsibility sits with **platforms**, not parents
- The rollout was never expected to be instant or perfect
- This is **not** a ban on communication

Children can still text, call, message friends, and play games together. The aim is to reduce exposure to **algorithm-driven platforms** designed to maximise screen time by manipulating attention and emotion.

## Why This Matters for Children and Teens

Most content on major platforms is no longer shared between people who know each other. Instead, children are exposed to endless short-form content from strangers, selected by algorithms designed to keep them scrolling.

For developing brains, this can contribute to:

- Increased anxiety and comparison
- Reduced focus and emotional regulation
- Sleep disruption and lower wellbeing

For younger children, this affects **play and brain development**. For adolescents, it is associated with **identity development, confidence, and mood**.

## What We're Seeing So Far

Early outcomes are mixed — which was always expected.

**Encouraging signs** include fewer youth accounts on major platforms, calmer homes for some families, and a slow cultural shift where early access is becoming less “normal”.

**Challenges remain.** Some children are migrating to other platforms, bypassing restrictions, or being helped by adults to work around safeguards.

Children testing limits is normal. Adults undermining protections is not — and it weakens both wellbeing and trust.

## Three Practical Things Parents Can Do Now

### 1. Explain the *Why*

Children engage in better ways when they understand the “why”. Rather than relying on “it’s the law,” explain — in age-appropriate ways — how platforms make money, why algorithms push outrage, violence, or reactionary content, and how this affects users.

### 2. Replace, Don’t Just Remove

Removing social media without replacing connection creates frustration. Helpful alternatives include phones that call and text but limit apps, parental controls (agreed to by everyone in healthy conversations), offline games, sport, hobbies and face-to-face time.

Connection is essential. Algorithms are not.

### 3. Model Healthy Digital Habits

Children learn more from what they see than what they’re told. Keep phones out of bedrooms, take breaks from social media yourself, and show that play, connection, and rest matter.

A play-based childhood needs play-based adults.

## A Final Word for Families and Schools

This legislation is imperfect and still evolving. But something important has changed.

For the first time, **big tech must justify children’s presence on their platforms**, rather than parents having to justify their absence.

When families and schools work together — explaining, replacing and modelling — children are better protected and better prepared to navigate the digital world with confidence.

That’s progress worth building on.



Dr Justin Coulson is a dad to 6 daughters and grandfather to 1 granddaughter. Justin travels all around the country, speaking at schools to students, educators and parents about wellbeing and relationships. He is also the parenting expert and co-host of Channel Nine’s Parental Guidance, and he and his wife host Australia’s #1 podcast for parents and family: The Happy Families Podcast. Justin has written 10 books about families and parenting - with the latest about raising boys out this year! For further details visit [happyfamilies.com.au](http://happyfamilies.com.au).



This is my own dear Son  
Listen to what he says!



2nd Sunday of Lent, Year A

Peter, James and John saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. The true nature of Jesus and his work was revealed to them as they witnessed the Transfiguration. Draw Jesus, Moses and Elijah on top of the mountain as the apostles look on.



### Gospel Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

By using the words below, can you work out what the voice from the cloud said to the apostles?

SON AM LISTEN TO SAYS  
BELOVED HIM IS PLEASED

