



## Early Years

Xavier College Prospectus



A CATHOLIC  
JESUIT COLLEGE  
[xavier.vic.edu.au](http://xavier.vic.edu.au)

# Xavier College

## Vision

Xavier College aspires to set hearts on fire by an educational commitment to a faith that does justice.

## Mission

Xavier College is a Catholic school within the spiritual and educational tradition of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits).

Our inspiration is Jesus Christ, the model of fulfilled human life.

Our aim is excellence in education and the formation of reflective, compassionate and articulate men and women of Christian faith, hope and love who will provide outstanding service and leadership in our world.

## Guiding Principles

### Protecting, Educating and Developing the Whole Person

- Having a personal concern and care (*Cura Personalis*) for the whole life of each member of our College community.
- Forming our students intellectually, spiritually, morally, aesthetically, physically, socially and emotionally.
- Protecting and safeguarding the wellbeing of all the students in our care.

### Formation of Men and Women of Faith to Work for Justice in the World

- Forming members of our community to serve God in the world.
- Having a committed and practical concern for those in need, such that students, staff and parents make an explicit connection between their Catholic faith and their work for justice in the world.





### **Pursuit of Excellence in Humanity**

- Welcoming all to Xavier College, where they can flourish and passionately pursue excellence in all things.
- Encouraging each person to live out his or her vocation in life by developing their God-given gifts to the best of their ability.

### **Discernment and Wisdom**

- Developing a self-reflective disposition in members of our community, particularly in students, preparing them to make informed decisions in accordance with their conscience.
- Preparing the individual to find God in all things through the use of each person's imagination and creativity, and the integration of faith and reason.

### **Critical Engagement with the World**

- Courageously and respectfully engaging with world cultures and perspectives.
- Critically pursuing a depth of learning by reflecting on experience and being moved to action.

### **Striving for the Magis**

- Developing a desire to strive for the *magis*. The Jesuit ideal of *magis* is a thirst for 'depth', for the greater good and for the most courageous response to the challenges of our time.



# Opening hearts and minds

*A Jesuit education encourages the individual to develop talents and fosters reflection so that the heart, mind, body and spirit may become fully engaged to serve in the wider world.*

## Setting hearts on fire

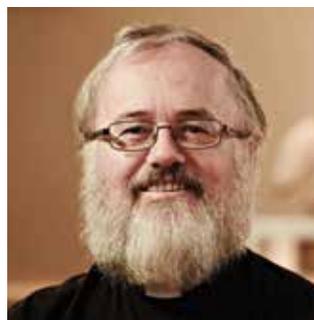
Xavier College is a Catholic school founded in 1878 by the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). It belongs to a worldwide network of over 2,000 Jesuit educational institutions.

Our aim is excellence in education with a particular focus on the individual.

In the Jesuit tradition, we believe that through rigorous self-reflection each person's imagination and creativity can be more fully integrated with faith and reason.

We encourage each of our students to become more fully alive to their own potential and the challenge of living out their Christian values in the world, through outstanding leadership and service.

We call it 'setting hearts on fire'.



## Welcome from the Rector and the Principal

In a world of change we are guided by the principles of Jesuit education formed over 450 years ago by St Ignatius of Loyola. Our inspiration is Jesus Christ who modelled a fulfilled human life. We seek to form reflective, compassionate and articulate men and women of Christian faith, hope and love.

At Xavier, we challenge our students to pursue excellence in all things within and outside the classroom. Education for life in the true sense embraces the intellectual, spiritual, moral and social aspects of life. This ensures that each individual achieves his or her highest potential.

There is a joy and spiritual freedom that grows out of a deep thirst for understanding, for the ability to look within, to seek the greater good and the most courageous responses to the challenges of our time.

We invite you to use this prospectus as a starting point in discovering how Xavier College may help develop the God-given gifts and talents of your son or daughter.

Wishing you every blessing.

Fr Chris Middleton SJ

Dr Chris Hayes







# Nurturing, relating and learning

*As a Jesuit school, Xavier College encourages deep reflection and a thirst for self-knowledge so that each student is best equipped to serve and make a real difference in their lifetime.*

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## The Jesuit Tradition

Xavier College was named after St Francis Xavier, who was one of the closest friends of St Ignatius of Loyola. Together with five other companions, they founded the Jesuit order in 1540. Jesuit principles of education emphasise the centrality of the Catholic faith, pursuit of excellence, development of the whole person, care of each individual (*Cura Personalis*), and service to others. These principles define all aspects of College life.

## A Supportive Christian Community

Xavier is a welcoming and close-knit community. The three Xavier campuses are

well integrated despite their geographic separation. From the Early Years at Burke Hall in Kew and Kostka Hall in Brighton, through to the final years at the Senior Campus in Kew, Xavier's more than 2,000 students and 400 staff all feel a strong sense of belonging to a unified school community. A Community that shares the same unambiguous set of Christian values and a consistent underlying philosophy of education.

Staff members are extremely approachable and interactions between staff, students and parents, as well as between the students themselves, are friendly, respectful and co-operative.



# A focus on values

*A Jesuit education encourages the individual to seek wisdom through reflection. In sharing our gifts and talents we learn about ourselves – and the mind, body, spirit and heart become totally engaged for life.*



Early Years learning is offered at Xavier College for boys and girls from Kindergarten to Year 4 at our Burke Hall Campus in Kew and Kostka Hall Campus in Brighton. It means boys and girls from the same family can share their first seven years of Catholic education together.

We believe there are enormous benefits in combining a seamless program from Kindergarten to Year 4 as this allows for a continuously connected program of learning for our students.

Our staff members are fully engaged in delivering a range of programs designed to encourage students to be curious, ask questions, make discoveries, collaborate and to think independently. Teachers use a variety of teaching and learning strategies to support students in their learning.

We are committed to a process of structured inquiry that involves students actively engaged in their own learning. We strive for a balance between the pursuit of understanding, the acquisition of knowledge and essential skills and attitudes.

# Finding their way in the world

*A Jesuit education teaches children how to learn to become citizens of the world. Jesuit values align with the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme of small classes focussed on the individual in daily partnerships with families.*

Xavier College is authorised to deliver the International Baccalaureate's Primary Years Programme. There is a strong alignment between this program and the philosophy and characteristics of a Jesuit education. Both focus on the growth of the whole child (intellectually, spiritually, aesthetically, socially, emotionally and physically) in the classroom and the wider world.

We have developed a comprehensive curriculum, which emphasises the importance of transdisciplinary learning; the need to acquire skills in context, and to explore

knowledge that is relevant to the lives of our students. Our students are given opportunities to learn both within and beyond the boundaries of the traditional subjects of English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Humanities, Science and ICT.

Specialist subjects offered include: Music, Language other than English, Drama (Kostka Hall only), Visual Arts, Health and Physical Education and Library. Six transdisciplinary themes guide teachers in planning and developing Units of Inquiry in each year level. These focus on local, national and international perspectives and content.





# Focusing on the individual



*Jesuit values combine with the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme enabling close attention to be paid to each individual in a nurturing environment – smaller classes and more specialist teachers set us apart.*

We believe it is crucial to know and understand each child in our care. Our smaller campuses allows us to develop strong personal relationships with students and work in partnership with parents. Our individualised programs give students the opportunities to learn in flexible groupings that may consist of a whole class, small groups or individually in their Homeroom and in specialist subjects.

As a Jesuit International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme school, we focus on the whole person, seeking to develop boys and girls who are able to serve in the wider world. There is a strong emphasis on action and preparing our students for a life of service, instilling in them a genuine commitment to serve others.

We aim to develop students who will become men and women of conscience, competence and compassion, able to bring about a more peaceful and just society by example and deeds. The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme fosters the belief that education must extend beyond the intellectual

to include not only socially responsible attitudes, but also thoughtful and appropriate action. An explicit expectation of the program is that successful inquiry will lead to responsible action, initiated by the students as a result of the learning process.

## **Pastoral Care**

Pastoral care is available to all members of the school community and seeks to awaken and strengthen their personal faith commitment.

Xavier College teachers and administrators, both Jesuit and lay, are more than academic guides. They are involved in the lives of the students, taking a personal interest in their intellectual, affective, moral and spiritual development and helping each one to develop a strong sense of self-worth, to exercise freedom responsibly, and to become a person of conscience within the community.

We seek to develop a set of values that go beyond 'the self' and lead to life choices that include a concern for the needs of others.





*We aim to develop students who will become men and women of conscience, competence and compassion, able to bring about a more peaceful and just society by example and deeds.*



# Places to grow

*Our purpose built and modern learning spaces are warm and welcoming and provide a secure, caring and stimulating environment for all our students.*



Xavier College facilities are 'state of the art', reflecting current educational priorities and the pursuit of excellence.

A commitment to both the visual and performing arts sees multiple Performing Arts complexes; three Music Centres and three Visual Arts Centres. All our facilities reflect a holistic approach to the education of our students as we seek to address their intellectual, spiritual, moral, emotional, aesthetic, and physical development.

Beyond mere bricks and mortar, the facilities at Xavier endeavour to support both the guidance and nurturing of our girls and boys, with the priority for an

attractive, safe and secure learning environment. This is seen in counselling rooms, spaces that support pastoral and personal development programs across all year levels from 3-year-old Kindergarten to Year 4.

## **Out of School Care Program**

Recognising the time demands placed upon parents and in keeping with our commitment to all aspects of a child's welfare, we offer an Out of School Hours Care Program at both campuses.



## XAVIER COLLEGE

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### Senior Campus

135 Barkers Road Kew  
Victoria Australia 3101

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### Burke Hall Campus

Studley Park Road Kew  
Victoria Australia 3101

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### Kostka Hall Campus

47 South Road Brighton  
Victoria Australia 3186

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