

# junior school

## Academic Program: Support Students 2020

At St Mary's Anglican Girls' School we aim to create a learning environment that enables our girls to discover their best. Our Junior School offers a wide range of opportunities in the classroom, as well as specific withdrawal programs and co-curricular activities, to enable girls to engage and develop at a level that best supports their learning style. An integral element of this model is the St Mary's Academic Centre for Enrichment (ACE).

ACE programs are available to a select group of students who require a different program. While enrichment opportunities are available to all students within the classroom. St Mary's prides itself on delivering a differentiated curriculum in all year levels.

Our School is well-resourced and employs three full-time ACE teachers, who work closely with classroom teachers to assist in the modification and implementation of learning programs for identified students from Kindergarten to Year 6. In addition, the Junior School also employs a school psychologist, who works closely with the ACE team and classroom teachers to monitor, support and assess students.

### ACE Program: Support Students

St Mary's prides itself on being an inclusive school, a school which recognises the diverse needs of all our students, accommodating both different styles and rates of learning. Students who participate in ACE Support Programs are those students who may be at risk of not achieving major learning outcomes or who are deemed as requiring a Tier 2 teaching approach.

#### Addressing Individual Student Needs

St Mary's delivers a differentiated curriculum in all year levels. ACE Programs are available to a select group of students, while differentiated tasks are an integral component of what is offered in the mainstream classroom. At the commencement of each school year a range of assessments are conducted in both literacy and mathematics. These results, in conjunction with informal assessments, are used to determine if a student is best placed in an ACE Support Program.

#### Philosophy of ACE Support Programs

The ACE Support Programs are underpinned by the following philosophy:

- Systematic explicit instruction.
- A framework that provides a measure of independence but at the same time supports the learner.
- Targeting of a student's weakness and providing appropriate strategies to address learning requirements.
- Students achieving success by being placed on appropriate levels of work, increasing self-esteem and confidence.
- Regular feedback on work and re-teaching of tasks if necessary.

### Junior School Programs

**Identification:** As there is no single measurement tool for students with special educational needs, the following information will be gathered (when appropriate) to help with identification:

- Appropriate psychometric tests (verbal and non-verbal)
- Past school reports
- Standardised tests
- Medical reports
- Observations (via teacher feedback)
- Parent interviews
- Reports from external agencies e.g. Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist

Standardised testing is conducted each year. Each student has a school profile outlining any special educational needs. Incoming students' cognitive and academic skills are requested on enrolment.

**Case Manager:** Academic Centre for Enrichment teachers and a school psychologist 'case manage' the students on Individual Education Plans. They will work with and inform the student and her family of provisions/support provided; keep detailed documentation of the provisions being offered by St Mary's; and along with the classroom teacher, be responsible for all curriculum support/advice offered to parents.