

Ready for Year 7

Regional Schools

Parent Update



Year 7s are on the move

From 2022, Year 6 will become the final year of primary schooling in the following regional locations:

- Mary MacKillop Memorial School, Penola
- Our Lady of the River School, Berri
- St Albert's Catholic School, Loxton
- St Anthony's Catholic Primary School, Millicent
- St James School, Jamestown
- St Joseph's Parish School, Gladstone
- St Joseph's School Barmera
- St Joseph's School, Renmark

Why move Year 7?

This decision is primarily about best meeting the learning, social and emotional needs of young people.

We know that the Year 7 curriculum is designed to be taught in a secondary context – as happens already in every State and Territory except SA.

Most Catholic schools across South Australia made this change in 2019 and our remaining Catholic schools (except for St Columba's Memorial, Yorketown) will join state schools in making this transition in 2022.

"By the time students enter Year 7, they are beginning to change socially and emotionally. They are ready for greater independence. We have been working closely with Principals in our regional schools to strengthen pathways and ensure all Year 7 students in Catholic schools are supported in their transition to secondary schooling."

Nichii Mardon
Director, Catholic Education Port Pirie Diocese



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New Pathways for Year 7s

Exciting changes are underway as we strengthen opportunities for students to access a secondary education in Catholic schools in regional South Australia.

A brand new school for the Riverland

In 2022, we will open a new Catholic Secondary school in the Riverland. We are delighted to be providing a new option for students in the region including those at our four local Catholic primary schools.

New R-9 schools

A number of schools will also expand to become R – 9 schools from 2022. These include:

- St Mary MacKillop School, Wallaroo
- St Joseph's School, Peterborough
- St Joseph's School, Clare
- St Joseph's School, Murray Bridge

Students in these regions will now be able to start their secondary schooling in their local community.

Existing schools

This is in addition to the existing pathways available to families. These include:

- Caritas College, Port Augusta (R-12)
- St Barbara's Parish School, Roxby Downs (R-9)
- St Columba's Memorial School, Yorketown (R-7)
- St Joseph's School, Port Lincoln (R-12)
- St Mark's College, Port Pirie (R-12)
- Samaritan College, Whyalla (R-12)
- Tenison Woods College, Mt Gambier (E-12)

A full list of Catholic schools, including boarding schools, is available at cesa.catholic.edu.au/schools



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What are the benefits?

Year 7s will receive many benefits including:

- **Educational benefits** - Greater access to specialist teachers and facilities
- **Learning outcomes** - Access to a tailored curriculum and custom-designed learning facilities are designed to increase student engagement and academic development
- **Social and emotional benefits** - Adolescents thrive in an environment that encourages independence and supports their social and emotional needs.

Help and support

Students and families from each of our R-6 Catholic primary Schools will be strongly supported to continue their journey into Year 7 at their nearest Catholic secondary school.

Significant subsidies are provided to families to access bus transport to Catholic schools.

We're ready!

We understand that this is a big change for our students, families and teachers.

We're ready to support you every step of the way.

Be assured that the same nurturing community that you have loved being part of will be offered to your child as they continue their schooling journey.

We're 100% committed to continuing to support your child's educational and spiritual development and walking alongside them as they grow their sense of belonging, identity and values.

A smooth transition

Our aim is to ensure that your child has a seamless transition to the school of their choice.

To find out more about how to enrol, our transition and orientation programs, or simply to ask a question please contact your school principal or go to

cesa.catholic.edu.au/year7

