



Discover Excellence in Education at St Mary's School Cohuna

Nestled in the heart of Cohuna, St Mary's School is a beacon of faith, learning, and community spirit. Our commitment to providing a nurturing and innovative educational environment ensures that every child can flourish and reach their full potential.

Why Choose St Mary's School Cohuna?

At St Mary's, we believe in making a difference in every child's life. Our dedicated staff and comprehensive programs are designed to offer rich, real, and relevant learning experiences. We strive to create a safe and fun learning environment where students can explore their interests, develop their skills, and grow in confidence. St Mary's Cohuna is committed to providing outstanding learner growth and achievement through providing expert teaching and learning for every child.

Innovative Learning with Magnify Sandhurst

We are proud to be part of the Magnify Sandhurst initiative, a groundbreaking, evidence-informed, science of learning initiative developed by Catholic Education Sandhurst. This initiative is transforming the way we teach and learn, focusing on how teachers teach and how students learn. Here's what makes Magnify Sandhurst special:

- **Personalised Learning:** The program emphasises tailored support for each student, ensuring that individual needs, strengths, and goals are met.
- **Evidence-Based Practices:** By integrating research-backed teaching methods, we enhance students' understanding and retention of essential skills and knowledge.
- **Teacher Empowerment:** Magnify Sandhurst provides our teachers with professional learning opportunities and instructional coaching, enabling them to deliver the best possible education.
- **Faith Integration:** Inspired by our Catholic traditions, Magnify Sandhurst encourages students to reflect on their faith and apply it in their daily lives.

A Community of Support and Growth

At St Mary's Cohuna, we are more than just a school; we are a community. Our students, families, and staff work together to create a supportive and inclusive environment. We offer a range of extracurricular activities, including sports, arts, and community service, to help students develop well-rounded skills and interests.

At St Mary's Cohuna all students have the right to feel safe and be safe all the time



Welcome from the Principal ~ Join Us at St Mary's School

Cohuna Our Catholic school welcomes everyone who seeks to benefit from our exceptional education. We embrace families who share our educational vision, inspired by Christian values. You do not need to be Catholic to enrol in our school. We celebrate diversity and welcome respectful engagement with all who come to St Mary's.

We welcome you to become part of our vibrant school community. Whether you are looking for a place where your child can excel academically, grow spiritually, or develop socially, St Mary's School Cohuna is the perfect choice.

We invite prospective families to visit our school and experience firsthand the vibrant, inclusive, and nurturing environment we offer. Come and see how our commitment to excellence and our community spirit can make a difference in your child's education. Contact us today to arrange a tour and discover the opportunities that await at St Mary's School Cohuna.

Experience the difference at St Mary's School Cohuna, where every child is valued, and every day is an opportunity to magnify their potential.

For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact us at:

Address: 51 King Edward Street, Cohuna, Victoria 3568

Phone: (03) 5456 2062

Email: principal@smcohuna.catholic.edu.au

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Gould".

Lauren Gould – Acting Principal

At St Mary's Cohuna all students have the right to feel safe and be safe all the time

~ Our Identity Statement ~

At St Mary's all will be included, nurtured, faith filled, respected and inspired to reach their full potential.

Our History

St. Mary's School, Cohuna was opened by the Sisters of the Good Samaritan in 1926, with an approximate enrolment of 60. In those days, Primary Education extended to 8th grade - The Merit certificate. Within a few years, a need arose to extend the school further to Intermediate. The school continued this extended education until 1964, when it reverted to its present primary system - Prep to Gr. 6. In former days the school was known as the Immaculate Conception, but once the Parish was established in 1936, the school's name was changed to St Mary's, and the Parish maintained the original title - "Immaculate Conception".



About the School:

We are proud of our learning environment which aims to provide contemporary teaching practices and current educational methodologies for our students. We have:

- 1:1 devices throughout the school - We integrate these into learning experiences to engage and encourage students
- Specialist curriculum - Visual Arts, Physical Education, STEM and 'Language Other Than English' Auslan (Australian Sign Language).
- Intimate class sizes – providing high levels of academic, and social and emotional support for every child
- Large playing areas, and a variety of equipment - Our grounds are inclusive of all interests and imagination and provide space for our students to grow and enjoy themselves.
- Staff who are data informed - providing opportunities for differentiated teaching and learning experiences
- Comprehensive curriculum delivery – Victorian Curriculum 2.0 and dedicated teaching and learning programs that are evidenced-backed.
- Pastoral Wellbeing focus - a comprehensive pastoral wellbeing program designed to support the emotional, social, and spiritual development of students.
- Catholic Identity - a strong emphasis on integrating faith into school and community life.
- Comprehensive facilities – well-resourced classroom learning spaces, dedicated specialist spaces, breakout spaces for small group learning, and a major capital grant build beginning in the second half of 2025 – refurbished classrooms and a large, multipurpose building with an inbuilt library.
- Sustainability program – creating environmental awareness, community engagement and enhanced student and community wellbeing.
- Playgroup – community playgroup every Wednesday 9.30-10.30am with experienced facilitators

St Mary's Cohuna Graduate Outcomes

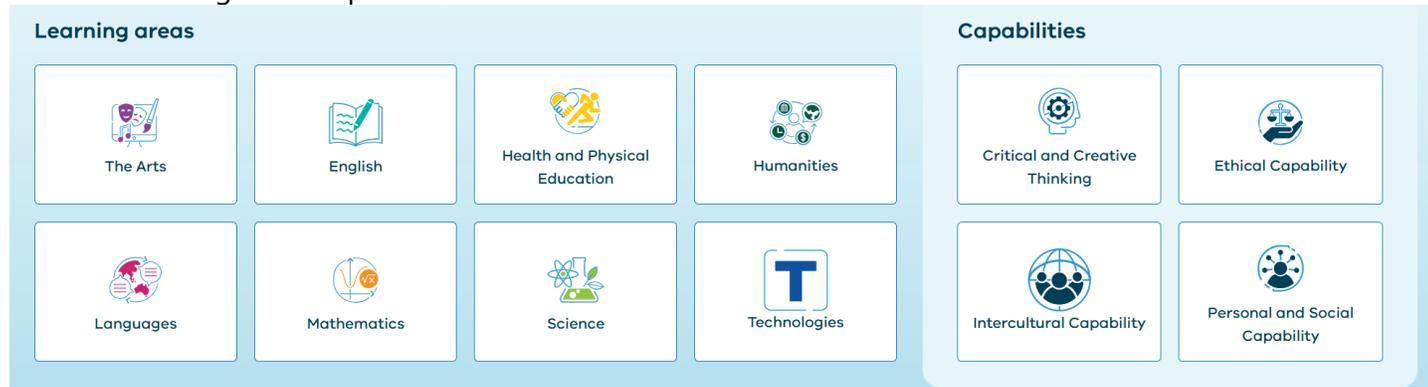
In our school, we magnify the qualities and characteristics of **respect**, **resilience** and **compassion** in every child and adolescent, across every classroom, on every day. Our aim is to inspire and empower **faith-filled**

At St Mary's Cohuna all students have the right to feel safe and be safe all the time

lifelong learners who demonstrate growth through **outstanding achievement, flourishing relationships** and **generous service**. By the time students graduate from St Mary's Cohuna, they will be confident, compassionate, respectful, resilient, critical thinkers, lifelong learners, faith filled and socially just.

Learning & Teaching Program

St Mary's Cohuna is mandated to deliver the Victorian Curriculum 2.0. This encompasses the 8 key learning areas and the 4 general capabilities.



Excursions & Incursions

Students participate in excursions and incursions which deepen their learning experiences. Sometimes the richest learning experience happens outside the classroom. Throughout the school year the students also take part in cultural and community events such as concerts, plays, assemblies and learning with others. These events allow for immersion and exposure to experiences gained outside of a normal school setting. Signed parent permission must be provided for students to take part in all external learning experiences. This is a legal requirement.



Our Camp Program:

Our students take part in days excursions from Foundation-year 2 and overnight camp programs from year 3-6. These experiences aim to be a progressive program where independence, collaboration and confidence is encouraged.

Source of Life Religious Education Program

St Mary's integrates the Catholic Education Sandhurst Source of Life program into the weekly curriculum. The Source of Life is a program designed by the Diocese of Sandhurst and is delivered for approximately two and a half hours a week. Prayer, liturgy and attendance at Mass are also an integral part of one's faith development and the school partakes in such traditions regularly. All enrolled at St Mary's are taught Religious Education and are expected to take part in these rituals and traditions. Concepts, values and key messages taught in Religious Education underpin all that we say and do.

At St Mary's Cohuna all students have the right to feel safe and be safe all the time

Sacraments of Initiation Sacramental Program

St Mary's parish offers the Sandhurst 'Steps in Faith' Sacraments of Initiation program encompassing Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist annually to children from year 3 and up. A sacramental candidate must have been baptised in a Catholic church for this faith journey to continue in the Catholic Church. Anyone interested in the possibility of Baptism prior to the Steps in Faith program or would like more information about the Steps in Faith program should contact the parish or the school office for more information.



Our Parish

St Mary's Primary school and St Mary's Parish work collaboratively within the community. In December 2024, Father Minh was appointed Parish Priest of St Mary's Cohuna, St Joseph's Kerang and St Patrick's Pyramid Hill. We are blessed to have Fr Minh support our school. **St Mary's weekly Mass times are:** Thursday 9am and Sunday 8:30am



Uniforms

	BOYS	GIRLS
SUMMER	Navy shorts, school logo polo shirt, white socks, black school shoes	School dress or navy shorts/skorts, school logo polo shirt, white socks, black school shoes
WINTER	Long navy trousers, long sleeve polo shirt, navy school jacket / windcheater, white socks	Long navy trousers, long sleeve polo shirt. Navy skirt / tunic, navy school jacket / windcheater, white socks or navy tights
SPORT	Navy shorts, school polo shirt, white socks and runners. Children may wear their navy tracksuit pants or shorts and school polo shirt in cooler weather.	Navy shorts or skorts, school polo shirt, white socks and runners. Children may wear their navy tracksuit pants or shorts, school polo shirt in cooler weather.

Uniforms are compulsory for all students at St Mary's. Students out of uniform must have a note supplied by

At St Mary's Cohuna all students have the right to feel safe and be safe all the time

their parents. St Mary's school hats are supplied for all new enrolments when they begin school. Hats are worn in terms 1 and 4. Hats are kept at school and can be purchased from the uniform shop if a replacement is needed. All school uniforms are available to be purchased from CDFPay.



Home School Communication



Communication is paramount to successful relationships. Staff at St Mary's strive to keep families informed about the happenings at school at every opportunity. To ensure all avenues of communication are available, the school provides:

- Fortnightly newsletters
- home/school diaries,
- telephone calls / SMS,
- PAM (Parent Access Module),
- Parent information sessions,
- Learning conversations,
- Seesaw,
- Facebook,
- Instagram,
- School Stream,
- Paper correspondence to those who request it, and
- the school website.

Families are encouraged to reach out to their classroom teacher, school office or principal if there are any queries relating to the operation of the school and the wellbeing of your child(ren).

CDF Pay

St Mary's aims to be a cashless organisation. St Mary's uses CDF Pay to process canteen, uniform and costs associated with events and gatherings. Simply create an account for your use. There is a direct link to CDFPay on our website. <https://smcohuna.cdfpay.org.au/>

Assessment & Reporting

St Mary's uses a variety of assessment tools to gather data on the progress of individual Learners. We follow a formal assessment schedule throughout the year to ensure our Learners are being taught at the required and personalised levels. The data is used and analysed regularly to inform our teaching practices.

Assessment is regularly discussed in a collaborative setting to ensure we are meeting the needs of our individual Learners and using all teaching expertise available. Data driven teaching is expected at St Mary's.

Learning Conversations

Parents, teachers and Learners will meet each semester to discuss the progress of their learning journey. In Term One, the conversation provides parents with the opportunity to share information about their child, with any questions or concerns that they may have. In Term 3, Learning conversations are scheduled to allow parents and staff a formal time to communicate with each other regarding learners' progress. These conversations are directly related to your child's learning, identifying strengths and challenges and the partnership of school and home that will allow all children to celebrate great success. We believe these

At St Mary's Cohuna all students have the right to feel safe and be safe all the time

opportunities model to the child the importance of being active in their learning.

Reports

A school report aims to document a Learner's growth and achievements each semester. It communicates learning and teaching information to home, relevant to the individual learner. Reports aim to describe what each child has achieved and how he or she has gone about their learning as well as providing recommendations for future learning. Written reports are distributed twice a year, at the end of each semester. A learning conversation is an additional opportunity to discuss your child's report if you have any queries.

Supervision

School gates and classrooms open at 8.30am daily, ready for the school day. School concludes at 3.15pm and students are supervised until 3.30pm. Although formal supervision duty ceases at 3.30pm, teachers will be available should unexpected circumstances arise.

Students are supervised by school staff from 8.30am until 3.30pm. A teacher is rostered on duty at each break, in the morning and when students are departing. As there is no supervision before 8.30am, we ask that children do not arrive at school before this time and that students are promptly collected at the end of the school day.

During wet or particularly hot weather periods children are supervised in learning spaces at recess and lunchtimes, where they are encouraged to participate in indoor activities.

School Attendance

It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to ensure their child attends school. **Everyday at school counts.** We ask that every effort is made to have your child at school before the morning bell as late arrival interrupts core learning time and can have a detrimental effect on your child's learning. Attendance is marked twice daily on the electronic class roll. This is a legal document and the school is mandated to record all attendance. St Mary's will track attendance data and follow processes and procedures to govern this.

Absence

If your child is absent from school, please notify the school via the PAM app or please phone the school office as early as possible. If communication is not received by 10am, the school is legally required to contact home for an explanation of absence. Where possible please provide the school with written notification of any upcoming and pre planned absences. The principal must receive written notification if a student is to be absent from school for any extended period, such as a family holiday. It is important to inform the school of the reason for all absences as the school has an obligation to:

- Determine if the absence is in line with St Mary's attendance policy and government guidelines.
- Determine the appropriate follow up to ensure the student education and wellbeing is supported.
- Record the reason as to why the student is not attending school.
- Monitor and track absence in relation to learning.

Excursions, camps and sporting carnivals are part of the school's curriculum and therefore opting not to participate is not considered a valid reason for a Learner's absence.

Late Arrival & Early Departures

Late Arrival: Any students arriving after 8:45am must be signed in at the front office before going to the

At St Mary's Cohuna all students have the right to feel safe and be safe all the time

classroom.

Early Departure: Students leaving early must be signed out at the office by a parent or guardian over the age of 18. A staff member will collect them from the classroom to minimise disruption to other students. Please note: No student is legally allowed to leave the premises during the school day without written consent from a parent or guardian. Phone calls are not legally binding.

Traveling to and from school

Students who arrive at school on a bus will enter at the Channel Street entrance of the school and walk to their classrooms.

Students arriving by car may be dropped off at the front of the school in King Edward Street.

Students arriving by bike/scooter or by foot may arrive via either Channel Street or King Edward Street.

Students may not ride bikes/scooters in the playground or when crossing roads at any time and are required to wear a helmet.

Any child/family walking in Channel Street are to use the flagged crossing provided. Students who are collected from school by their parents must wait inside the school grounds.

Bus Travelers

Students assemble on the basketball court and are supervised by staff until all students have departed.

Students who live more than 4.8kms from St Mary's are entitled to travel on government buses free of charge. An application form for approval to travel is available from the office which upon completion is forwarded by the principal to the local bus coordinator at Cohuna Secondary College. Bus passes are required for students travelling on different buses. Bus passes are only allowed for special circumstances; they are not a mode of free travel. School Bus pick-up from St. Mary's at the conclusion of the day is 3.15pm.

Bicycle & Scooter

It is strongly recommended by the Road Traffic Authority that children under the age of 9 not be permitted to ride unaccompanied on the road. Students who ride bicycles/scooters to school must know the road rules, have a safe, roadworthy bike/scooter and wear an approved helmet. Students are not permitted to ride their bikes/scooters in the playground unless as part of a Bike Education Program. Bicycles and scooters are to be stowed in the bike racks provided. E Scooters are not recommended for use as the law states that you need to be 16 to legally ride an E-Scooter.

Parent Involvement ~ Parents are their child's first and most important teachers

Parents are an integral part of their child's education and there are many ways in which parents can involve themselves in their child's school life. Parents can actively participate through assisting in the classroom, parent learning support, attending school Masses and learning events, volunteer to assist with reading during RATS, attend school working functions and celebrations, join the Parents and Friends Association or the School Advisory Council, attend sports days and excursions or simply enjoy the social functions offered throughout the year. Children thrive when they know their parents have an interest in their life at school. St Mary's Primary school adheres to all Child Safe standards and legislation and encourages all parents to get a Working With Children's Check (WWCC) which is free and is required for all volunteering in the school. The completion of a WWCC and St Mary's Child Safe Volunteer application forms must be completed by all

At St Mary's Cohuna all students have the right to feel safe and be safe all the time

volunteers that visit and support the school. All forms can be obtained from our website or enrolment packs.

The Parents & Friends Association

The P&F is an essential part of school for both social events and the financial support that it provides. The P&F provides opportunities for all of us to socialise in the community, come together and work collectively for a common goal. The funds raised by the P&F are always spent improving educational opportunities for our Learners. We welcome anyone into our P&F and are proud of our strong sense of community.

The School Advisory Council

St Mary's School Advisory Council is founded on the philosophy of Shared Wisdom. St Mary's School Advisory Council plays an important role in the collaboration of decision making that impacts the school's future direction. The Strategic Plan provides a scaffold for school renewal and improvement and is an active document referred to continually by the school council.

Fees

St Mary's offers a low fee, all-inclusive program. This covers **all** events, experiences and costs involved with attending school. No out-of-pocket expenses are required. All classroom books and materials are purchased by the school and distributed to your child as required, for:

- Core curriculum-Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Technology, Religious Education, The Arts, LOTE, Humanities and Health.
- Extra-curricular – swimming program, computer use, excursion and camps, bus hire
- The use of library books, class sets, photocopying and welfare requisites
- Environmental Education resources, including our sustainability program and garden club
- Use of specialist class materials
- Visiting performers to school
- Breakfast club

If you have a Health Care Card (HCC) school fees are **significantly lower**- ask us more about this today! Families with a HCC can also apply for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF), which helps to subsidise annual fees.

All fees are to be paid each year and not carried forward to future years, unless an arrangement has been made with the principal. Families who may be experiencing difficulty in meeting school fee payments are asked to please make an appointment for a confidential meeting with the principal to discuss other options available. Assistance is available where genuine need exists. Confidentiality is assured.

St Mary's adheres to its Fee Policy and Procedures. Our fee policy is available on our website and on PAM.

Canteen

St Mary's Canteen is available every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Our canteen is 'out-sourced' to Kimmy's Cafe. The menu changes each term and is planned in conjunction with Kimmy. Our termly menus can be found on Seesaw. Lunch orders are purchased through CDF Pay. Families are asked not to call Kimmy's on a canteen day to order food not on the school menu.

Assemblies

St Mary's has a whole school assembly three Fridays per term. Our assemblies aim to celebrate and share the learning that is taking place in our school. The assembly is held in the Church or COLA area depending on

At St Mary's Cohuna all students have the right to feel safe and be safe all the time

the season. We encourage parents to attend such occasions. School assembly begins at 2:20pm on these days to allow enough time for dismissal.

At St Mary's Cohuna all students have the right to feel safe and be safe all the time

Foundation Transition to school program

St Mary's recognises school Transition as a fundamental milestone in a child's life. St Mary's Transition program aspires to introduce the child to the community of St Mary's in a strategic and explicit way. Through progressive sessions in Term Four, all new Foundation enrolments will meet all the St Mary's staff in the school, be given a Senior Buddy for initial familiarity and tour all areas of the school to ensure comfort and a sense of belonging. St Mary's Transition program is one we value immensely. All dates and times of Transition sessions will be sent out in Enrolment packs once enrolment applications are complete.

Information for Prep Enrolment

Open Day / Evening: Tuesday 6th May 2025

Active Family Tours:

Interested families book a tour and have a family interview with the principal, collect an enrolment pack from St Mary's or download from our website.

Application for Enrolment :

Please submit completed Enrolment Forms and supporting documentation to St Mary's by the end of August.