

Frequently asked Questions

Why does St Joseph's have Year 0 students?

Year 0 is common in New Zealand. It provides children who begin school later in the year with additional time to establish strong foundations in literacy, numeracy, and learning behaviours before progressing to Year 1. This reflects the amount of time they have spent at school rather than simply their age.

How is my child's year level decided?

We consider several factors, including:

- your child's date of birth
- when they started school
- the amount of time they have spent at school
- their previous learning and progress (for transferring students)
- what will best support their long-term success.

What is cohort entry?

Cohort entry allows children to start school in groups on Ministry of Education-approved dates after they turn five. This helps children settle into school alongside other new learners and supports teachers to establish routines and learning programmes.

Can I request my child be placed in a different year level?

Parents are welcome to discuss any questions or concerns about year-level placement. While we value parent input, the final decision rests with the principal, who will consider what is in the child's best educational interests.

Who can I speak to if I have questions about my child's placement?

Please contact the school office to arrange a meeting with the principal or deputy principal. We are happy to explain our placement process and discuss how we can best support your child's learning.

Will being in Year 0 disadvantage my child?

No. Our focus is on ensuring children have the time they need to build strong foundations. Research shows that a secure foundation in the early years supports future learning, confidence, and wellbeing. We make placement decisions based on what will best support each child's long-term progress.

Why might my child's year level be different from their previous school?

While many schools have similar approaches, year-level placement for children in their first years of schooling can vary depending on when they started school and the school's enrollment practices. At St Joseph's, we consider a child's age, their total time at school, and their current learning needs to determine the placement that will best support their academic and social development.