



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND

Office of the Vicar for Education

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Establishment of St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College Drury and Decapitation of Year 7 and 8 Students

Information for Parents at St Joseph's School Pukekohe

Background Information

Over 20 years ago a group of parents who had children attending St Joseph's School, Pukekohe and St Mary's School Papakura came together to lobby and work for the establishment of a Catholic secondary school in the area to serve the needs of the Catholic community living in the wider Franklin Counties area. This group with some new members still operates today and has worked cooperatively with the Catholic Diocese of Auckland to achieve the establishment of the secondary school at Drury.

As population growth continues in the Franklin Counties and Takanini areas, the need for this school has become more urgent. At 1 July 2018, 951 students from the wider Franklin area attended 9 secondary schools in Auckland.

The establishment of St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College in Drury will:

- Provide an accessible pathway for the transition of students attending Catholic primary schools in the area – St Joseph's School Pukekohe, St Mary's Catholic School Papakura and Holy Trinity Catholic School Takanini to Catholic secondary education.
- Remove barriers for access to Catholic secondary schooling for Catholic families with children at the three local Catholic primary schools and at local State schools, as many:
 - Do not want their children to be spending non-productive time travelling to and from Catholic secondary school located in Central or East Auckland and/or are not in a financial position to meet the additional transport costs required to access Catholic secondary schools
 - The Catholic secondary schools are at capacity and unable to accept all Catholic applicants.
- Increase the ability of students to participate in the full range of co-curriculum programme offered by our Catholic secondary schools such as competitive sport, drama productions, music groups, cultural groups, homework centres and mentoring programmes.
- Assist in reducing the number of vehicles traveling into Auckland City via the Southern Motorway and the current bottleneck and significant traffic congestion each morning at the Drury, Papakura and Takanini interchanges.

Currently the newest Catholic secondary school in the Auckland Diocese is Sancta Maria College in Flat Bush, a Year 7-13 co-educational secondary school, which opened in 2004. In its first year (2004) Sancta Maria College started with just Year 7, 8 and 9 students and as these students moved progressively through the school, it was only in 2008 that Sancta Maria first had students at all year levels from Year 7 to Y13. Sancta Maria was built to provide Catholic secondary education for students living particularly in South East Auckland (Pakuranga, Howick, Beachlands, Flat Bush, Ormiston). In 2004 when Sancta Maria opened for instruction the two Catholic primary schools which served this area were decapitated from the start of 2004 and became Year 1-6 Primary schools. The majority of students who had been in Years 6, 7 and 8 in these two primary schools in 2003 became the foundation Year 7, 8 and 9 students at Sancta Maria in 2004. This model of development will apply to the establishment of St Ignatius of Loyola College and the decapitation of the three associated primary schools.

Answers to Some Questions Raised by Parents

1. St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College will be a co-educational Year 7-13 State Integrated Catholic secondary school. Fourteen (14) of the fifteen (15) secondary schools in the Diocese are Year 7-13 schools. The exception is McAuley High School. The Catholic Diocese believes that the Year 7-13 model of secondary education provides the best educational outcomes for students.
2. While we hope that St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College will be the preferred school for families seeking Catholic secondary education for their children, parents have always had the right, and continue to have the right, to enrol their children at a school of their choice. However, it is also important to be aware that many schools are unable to accept all applicants because they are at capacity and/or have an enrolment scheme which defines priorities of acceptance.
3. The opening date for St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College is planned for January 2023. Consequently, from January 2023 St Joseph's will become a Year 1-6 school and no longer able to enrol Year 7 and 8 students.
4. Benefits for Year 7 and 8 students attending a Year 7-13 secondary school include:
 - Strong pastoral care systems as they transition to a secondary school where they still have a home room but are taught by specialist teachers in curriculum areas such as languages, and science. Students will however be timetabled for some of their subjects in specialist facilities such as laboratories, gymnasium, drama, music and technology rooms.
 - A greater range of opportunities for involvement in the co-curriculum programme
5. St Ignatius of Loyola Catholic College will be a Catholic State Integrated secondary school, and hence will be subject to all the regulations applying to other Catholic schools. The College will therefore:
 - have a maximum roll
 - be required to accept all preference applicants before accepting any non-preference students and the number of non-preference students that can be accepted is limited to 5% of the school's maximum roll
 - be required to implement an enrolment scheme which will give first priority of enrolment to preference students from St Joseph's Pukekohe, St Mary's Papakura and Holy Trinity Catholic who are Baptised Catholics and have received the other sacraments of initiation (First Eucharist and Confirmation)
 - be required to charge Attendance Dues
6. Attendance Dues are determined annually and apply to all Catholic schools in the Diocese. Attendance Due rate are set for students in Years 1-8 and for students in Years 9-13. So, parents of students in Years 7 or 8 at a Year 7-13 secondary school or in a Year 1-8 primary school will be charged the same level of Attendance Dues.
7. An establishment Board of Trustees will be appointed and will have responsibility for the practical details associated with the establishment of the College. This Board I am confident will most certainly be exploring bus transport options and together with the principal who is appointed well before the College opens, will determine the organisational structure of the College.

Linda McQuade
Vicar for Education
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