History

St John Bosco College is a Catholic systemic co-educational secondary school established in the Salesian tradition of St John Bosco.

Our school was founded in 1978 at the initiative of the parishioners of St John Bosco Parish, Engadine, as a systemic Years 7–10 school under the administration of the Salesians of Don Bosco. The first Principal, Fr Patrick Laws sdb, left an indelible mark on the new school, which became characterised by community involvement, excellent educational programs and high-quality pastoral care.

In the mid-1990s the decision was taken to extend the school’s educational programs to include Years 11 and 12. A significant upgrading of the school’s facilities and curriculum was undertaken to cater for the new situation. The first graduates successfully completed their HSC in 1999. In 2010, the first lay Principal, Mr Damien Carlton, took over the principalship of the College and Fr Peter Carroll sdb became our first College Chaplain.

Our Tradition

The Salesian tradition follows the educational spirituality of St John Bosco, a 19th Century Italian saint and educator. He founded the Salesians of Don Bosco, a religious order of brothers and priests who dedicate themselves to the welfare, education and care of young people.

Don Bosco’s key contribution to education lies in his ‘Preventive System’ based on reason, religion and loving-kindness.

REASON
- a commonsense approach to human relationships
- understanding, communicating and relating with the young
- an optimistic appreciation of the human capacity to utilise the gifts of reason and intelligence.

RELIGION
- the centrality of God’s love for all people
- the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus
- a strong sacramental and prayer life
- an appreciation of the role of Mary, Help of Christians.

LOVING-KINDNESS
- nurturing relationships of trust and friendship
- a family spirit among all involved in the educational process.
Our Vision

OUR COLLEGE MOTTO
‘Gaudium et Spes’ Joy and Hope
Two Gospel values which continue to inspire all our endeavours at St John Bosco College.

VISION STATEMENT
St John Bosco College is an authentic Catholic school that:
- is founded on the person of Jesus Christ and is enlivened by Gospel values
- highlights the relevance of our faith to life and contemporary culture
- being embedded within the community of believers, shares in the evangelising mission of the Church
- is faithful to the rich educational tradition on which it was founded, the Salesian approach espoused by its patron, St John Bosco
- is committed to the development of the whole person
- strives to provide high-quality education within a caring environment
- responds to the needs of the community of which it is part by encouraging the growth of each student’s individual gifts, and by showing a special care for those with particular needs.

CHARTER OF SALESIAN SCHOOLS IN AUSTRALIA
Every Salesian school strives to be:
- a home that welcomes
- a parish that evangelises
- a school that prepares for life
- a playground where friends meet and enjoy themselves.

Our College

‘A great place to learn, a great place to grow’
St John Bosco College offers a broad, comprehensive curriculum catering for students in Years 7-12.

The College is situated on a compact campus noted for its pleasant green environment. The school is characterised by a dynamic, competent staff, engaged students and a supportive community.

The College is renowned for the excellence of its facilities, the beauty of its grounds, the quality of its student care, its commitment to technology, and the excellence of the educational opportunities offered to its students.

An emphasis on academic excellence and commitment to study are very much part of the College culture.

The high-quality pastoral care programs for which the College is renowned have been sustained and developed to cater for the greater number of students across the increased range of age groups. Positive staff/student relationships and a commitment to educational excellence remain significant features of College life.

We aim to develop in students a sense of responsibility, respect for authority and a spirit of loyalty. We endeavour to teach students the ability to work with and be considerate of others, and to be punctual and diligent in all they do. The College strives to develop initiative, self-confidence and the ability to work without supervision. Students are encouraged to constantly seek and speak the truth and to strive for justice in our world.

These values are very important in the lives of these young men and women. It is hoped that, where students learn in an environment that respects and accepts these values, they will shape their lives according to them.

Your son or daughter will finish their days at the College in the Salesian tradition of being a good Christian and an honest citizen.

Damien Carlton
PRINCIPAL
Catholic Life and Spirituality

St John Bosco College is an active Christian community committed to the practice of our Catholic faith through prayer, liturgy and social justice.

As a Salesian school we are inspired by the teachings and influence of our founder, Don Bosco.

All students study Religious Education. Catholic values are embedded in all curriculum areas. Students are challenged and actively engaged in a variety of youth ministry initiatives, and are involved in parish life and the broader life of the Church.

The College has a Chapel, where daily prayer is held for students and staff before school and where Masses are held on other occasions. Our close proximity to the Shrine of St John Bosco Church allows for student attendance on occasions at the parish Masses.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care refers to the quality of love – expressed in a practical, tangible manner – that permeates the relationships between teachers and students. The various programs, structures and services offered to support the well-being, growth and development of students emerge from the love that is the heart and soul of pastoral care.

The College has a unique Vertical House System that develops a sense of belonging and acceptance. This is allied with a variety of support staff and procedures such as:

- Pastoral Care Coordinator
- Year Level Coordinator
- School Counsellor
- Pastoral Education Program
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Special Programs – catering for the needs of particular students.

Leadership

Developing the leadership potential of every student is a strong priority of the College. From Year 7 through to Year 12, students are encouraged to take up new challenges and activities which promote leadership.

Our Student Captains, Student Representative Council (SRC), Colour House Captains and Liturgy Committee are just a few of the leadership opportunities available for our students.
Learning and Curriculum

RICH AND VARIED CURRICULUM
St John Bosco College offers a broad, comprehensive and inclusive curriculum that allows students to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to successfully participate in and contribute to Australian society. The College’s curriculum strives to clearly articulate a vision of life consistent with Gospel values and the teachings of the Catholic Church. The curriculum complies with the necessary legislative and statutory requirements as prescribed by law and mandated by the NSW Board of Studies.

Years 7 and 8 students study a fixed program. Choices of subject selection are made in Years 9 and 10, with broad subject choices available for Years 11 and 12. Students can select various pathways towards a Higher School Certificate that can direct them towards higher education and transition to work.

CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES
St John Bosco College offers a range of co-curricular opportunities including:
- Sport
- Dance Troupe
- Debating and Public Speaking
- Chess
- Mock Trial
- Music, Drama and Performing Arts
- Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
- Educational and recreational tours
- Community service and charitable works
- Wide variety of competitive and non-competitive sports.
Religious Education
St John Bosco College offers a variety of programs to make explicit its commitment to promoting the spiritual, religious and Salesian dimensions of the life of the College. There are a number of programs designed to form and educate young people in the faith of Jesus Christ. The Religious Education program includes the following features:
• Classroom Religious Education Program
• Prayer and Liturgy Program
• Camps and Retreats Program
• Sacramental Preparation Program
• Faith in Action.

Information Technology
The College is a very well-resourced school, particularly in the area of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), which features in all aspects of the College curriculum. All students have wireless laptops to use at school and home.

In addition, the College has a wireless network and mobile wireless laptop classrooms. In conjunction with digital interactive whiteboards, Bluetooth capability and video-conferencing facilities, students have access to cutting-edge technology in the classroom.

Elective classes in Technology are available from Years 9 to 12 with highly trained staff that include a full-time eLearning Coordinator and full-time ICT Coordinator. Students are taught using the most up-to-date software and methods available.
Vocational Education and Careers

The College has a strong program of Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses and technical subjects, offering students the opportunities to undertake VET courses at school or at a nearby TAFE. The Careers Coordinator is available to students and parents to offer guidance and support regarding careers, subject choices and work placement opportunities.

Careers Education commences in Year 9 as part of the PDHPE curriculum. The Year 10 students participate in an innovative Careers Week program each year. Years 10, 11 and 12 students have a variety of opportunities to explore their subject choices, career options and university entrance requirements. The School-to-Work Program assists students to prepare for transition to the workforce.

Learning Enhancement Programs

St John Bosco College offers a diverse range of inclusive learning support services and programs that are designed to meet the various academic needs of all students.

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

The Gifted and Talented Program is designed to give students with a special interest or ability the opportunity to attain their full potential. The aim of the program is to create a learning environment that encourages students to engage their abilities to the greatest possible extent, promotes creativity and higher cognitive skills, and prevents student under-achievement. A variety of models is used at different levels to facilitate opportunities for students.

LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAM

These programs are designed to be specific and targeted to the needs of individual students. There is a range of programs on offer and they are delivered in various ways.

They include:
- Special Education Program
- Peer Mentoring Program
- Intensive Reading Program
- Transition to Work Program
- Life Skills Program
- Numeracy Assistance Program
- Examination Assistance Program.
CHALLENGE CLASS

In each of Years 8, 9 and 10 there is one Challenge Class and four mixed ability classes. The Challenge Class Program seeks to offer academically talented students the opportunity to develop high-order cognitive skills and excel academically as a result of undertaking their core studies in an environment in which they are able to interact with their intellectual peers. Entry to the Challenge Class is by invitation according to strict criteria.

These programs are designed to allow each student to achieve, grow and develop to reach their own personal goals.

Sport

St John Bosco College offers a range of sporting opportunities.

COLLEGE HOUSE CARNIVALS

The College conducts House Carnivals in Swimming and Athletics each year.

WEEKLY FRIDAY AFTERNOON SPORT

Students in Years 7–10 participate in either representative or recreational sporting activities each Friday afternoon. These activities are based on student choice and staff expertise and include:

Representative Sports

- Basketball
- Soccer (Football)
- Volleyball
- Water Polo
- Cricket
- Netball
- Touch Football
- Oz Tag
- Hockey
- Baseball

Recreational Sports

- Bushwalking
- Ten-pin bowling
- Squash
- Tennis
- Dance and Theatresports
- Drama
- “Spin”
- Aquarobics
- Golf
- Softball
Sport

COMBINED CATHOLIC COLLEGES ASSOCIATION

Students are able to access State representation opportunities via the Combined Catholic Colleges Association in a variety of sports including Athletics, Cross Country, Swimming, Baseball, Softball, Cricket, Touch Football, Hockey, Soccer, Rugby Union, Rugby League and Golf.