Welcome to Santa Sabina Prep! Inspire your child with a love of learning and give them a great foundation for the years ahead.

Our structured Prep program encourages children to be successful learners as they engage in play based activities and learn to be inquirers. Your child will engage in the Primary Years Programme (PYP) designed by the International Baccalaureate Organization. The PYP focuses on the development of the whole child as it strives to prepare students as world citizens and life-long learners.

The purpose built prep space is designed with indoor and outdoor learning environments for children to explore, discover and grow. Children are encouraged to think independently, to develop problem-solving skills, and to and work cooperatively with others.

Our Early Education Teachers are experts in the field and have a passion for early childhood education.

We warmly welcome you and your family to Santa Sabina Prep.

Sharon Portlock
Head of Primary

Contact Information:

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Our Mission

Santa Sabina College, a Catholic school in the Dominican tradition, educates students to achieve personal excellence, to act with justice and compassion, and to embrace the future with an optimistic global vision.

Our Values

The tradition of Dominican schools in Australia recognises that education enriches and empowers; it fosters an appreciation of learning and intellectual curiosity, a love of God in prayer and action, and a strong commitment to social justice.

At the heart of our Dominican education is the search for truth, thus our motto, VERITAS.

Curriculum Framework

In 2014, Santa Sabina College Primary campus became a candidate school for the Primary Years Programme (PYP) - a rigorous, challenging, significant and relevant curriculum framework.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Programmes are accessible to students in over 140 countries through the close cooperation with the worldwide community of IB World Schools. The IB mission statement aligns closely with Santa Sabina’s own vision and values statements.

The children engage in Early Stage 1 learning experiences in reading, writing and mathematics. With a sound introduction to fundamental literacy and numeracy, our Prep students are prepared for school with a solid foundation and love of learning. Hands-on exploration and experiences across several disciplines enable children to become independent learners with global awareness.
questions + answers
What is the Prep program structure?

A two, three and five-day program from 9.00am – 3.00pm during the school term.

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<td>Thursday, Friday</td>
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<td>Monday to Friday</td>
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What is the Prep uniform?

- Prep Polo Shirt
- Prep Navy Shorts
- Prep Bucket Hat
- White Socks
- Sneakers/sports shoes
- Own School Bag

What will be the daily routine?

A predictable pattern to the day is designed to give your child a sense of routine and security. Integrated into the predictable events of the day, interesting and motivating learning experiences are planned to challenge and stimulate children in the areas of social, emotional, physical, creative and intellectual development.

A Typical Day at Santa Sabina Prep

Morning
- Arrival: parent/student sign in
- Purposeful play in learning space
- Story/song
- Munch and Sip - Fruit break
- Circle Time: Morning Meeting - discuss day/share news
- Literacy focus linked to unit of inquiry: including speaking and listening, reading and viewing, writing and presenting, spelling, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary

Recess/Play
- Eat in Prep learning space/play outside in Prep playground

Mid-morning
- PDH Health Focus: Social Skills: Bounce Back songs/story time
- Numeracy focus linked to unit of inquiry: including number, measurement and geometry, data
- Religion focus linked to unit of inquiry: reflection through drama, drawing and retelling

Lunch
- Eat in Prep learning space/play outside in Prep playground

Afternoon
- Yoga/Christian Meditation
- Science/HSIE focus - linked to unit of Inquiry
- Departure - sign out

Once per week
- Specialist Art, PE, Music lesson
- Library visit and borrowing
- Drama lesson in Term 4
What are the arrival and departure procedures?

When dropping off and picking up your child, please sign the sign-in/-out sheet located in the foyer of the Prep learning space. If your child is to be collected by someone besides the parents or persons on the “Authority to collect” form, please phone beforehand with the person’s name and their relationship to the child. Identification will need to be produced upon their arrival (e.g. Drivers licence).

Parents, please ensure you notify a staff member about your child’s arrival and that your child is left in the care of a staff member. Please also ensure that upon departing, you inform a staff member that your child is leaving.

What activities do Prep students participate in?

- Specialist Art, PE and Music classes
- Specialist Drama lessons within the year
- Library visit weekly including literature appreciation and book borrowing
- Prep Liturgy in the Del Monte Chapel, each term
- End of Year Mass in the Santa Sabina Chapel
- St Dominic’s Day Celebrations with whole school
- Harmony Day Celebrations with whole school
- Prep students will have a Buddy
- Rhyme Time - Storytelling in the library, once per month
- Novelty events at the Athletics carnival (spending an hour at event)
- Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Mass at Santa Sabina Chapel
- Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls
- Incursions and Excursions relating to learning
- Transition to school program- Kindergarten visits

Will my child have access to Specialist Services?

Prep students will have access to the College’s onsite Specialist Services in Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy.

How will communication occur between families and the Prep teacher?

- Prep students will be supplied with a school diary, that they will take home each day
- Notes will be emailed to parents
- A communication pocket will be assigned to each child (in foyer)
- Parents/carers will need to sign their child in and out of the Prep learning space - at this time a short conversation can occur with the Prep teacher
- Parents/teacher informal meetings can be made, if there are any concerns/questions
- Parents/teacher can email each other - teacher email address will be given to all enrolled Prep families
What do the Prep students need to pack into their bag?

- Lunch box containing recess and lunch, including a piece of fruit for munch and sip break
- Water bottle
- Prep bucket hat
- Change of underwear
- Change of shorts (Prep uniform)

Can the Prep students bring a comforting toy to Prep?

This is encouraged during settling in period - soft toy, small blanket, doll.

Where do Prep students have outdoor play?

Prep students have their own secure, shaded playground, adjoining the Prep learning space. Prep students play outdoors during recess play break and lunch play break, supervised by a teacher.

Will Prep students have Buddies?

Each Prep student will be assigned a Year 3 Buddy. Buddies will visit the students in the learning space each term spending time playing and reading with each other.

Will Prep students be placed into a College House colour?

Prep students will be placed into a House colour, but will not wear house colour shirts until the beginning of Kindergarten.

Will Prep students attend excursions/incursions?

Prep students will attend excursions that link to current inquiry learning. Excursions are planned following the College Excursion Policy. Incursions will also be planned for the Prep students.

Can medications be administered to Prep students?

Medication will be administered by the Prep teacher(s). Medication will be kept in Prep learning space, in a secure locked cupboard. Parents/caregivers will need to sign a medication form on arrival to the prep learning space.
Can Prep students participate in any co-curricular activities?

The Prep students may choose to participate in the following co-curricular activities:

- Instrumental lesson
- Jui jitsu

Will Prep students have access to technology?

Prep students will have daily access to desktop computers and iPads and an interactive whiteboard. Technology will be authentically integrated through all areas of learning.

Will there be any assessments for learning and development?

- Regularly in Literacy and Numeracy
- Ongoing reading running records (if needed)
- Ongoing anecdotal observations in regard to social/emotional development
- Each student will have a portfolio displaying all inquiry learning and anecdotal observations relating to their overall development and progress

Do Prep students need to be toilet trained?

Yes. Assistance will be given and correct hygiene procedures modelled as a part of the social skills program.

Where do Prep students go to the toilet?

The Prep learning space has a bathroom/toilet area for the Prep students to use. Only Prep students have access to this area.