



**St Mary MacKillop**  
Catholic Parish  
ORAN PARK

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE FAMILY PROFILE FORM FOR KINDER 2023 ENROLMENTS**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Partners in Mission,

While the increasing number of families requesting enrolment at St Justin's Catholic Primary School is a sign of the vitality of our parish and school, and reflects the excellent reputation our school has in the wider community, it also brings with it a challenge. Namely, how to equitably and fairly assess all enrolment applications, mindful that we are at a point when the number of applications for enrolment of baptised Catholics exceeds the school's available number of placements.

While we might like our parish school to build more classrooms or to employ more staff to cater for every child that wants to enrol, this is simply not possible – especially in light of limited financial resources, and to ensure an ongoing commitment to low-fees for parents and families.

As all of you who have previously enrolled children at St Justin's Catholic Primary School know first hand, when enrolling at our school, families are required to complete an enrolment application. The enrolment application form, among other things, seeks information regarding the name of the parish the child seeking enrolment and their family attend; the name of the Parish Priest and an indication of parish involvement. The application also asks for details regarding the Sacraments the child has received, including the Sacrament of Baptism. While this information is useful, this information does not provide us with the full picture of the faith practice of a family, or more specific information about a family's involvement in our parish of St Mary MacKillop Oran Park, of which St Justin's Catholic Primary School is a ministry. Hence the request to complete this additional document that we have called a 'Family Profile'.

Attaching a Family Profile form to your generic enrolment application form (used for all primary schools in our Diocese) ensures that the Principal and Parish Priest have all the information they need to assess applications, in light of the Diocesan Enrolment Policy.

You are encouraged to read over the *Enrolment Policy & Procedures for Catholic Parish Primary Schools of the Diocese of Wollongong* available in the Enrolment Package. The policy helps clarify a common *presumption* that is often made by families seeking enrolment, that being that if you are baptised Catholic you should automatically be given a place at the school.

As you will read from the *Enrolment Policy and Procedures*, this presumption is not accurate.

For being a parish school, and hence a work / ministry of St Mary MacKillop Parish, priority in enrolment for St Justin's Catholic Primary School will be given to children of practising Catholic families who **(whether they have a sibling at the school or not)** are involved in the life of St Mary MacKillop Parish, Oran Park. Also, priority is given to practising Catholic families who have made the decision to be active parishioners of St Mary MacKillop Parish, Oran Park, whether or not they live within the formal boundary of the parish.

In other words, simply because a child is baptised, does not mean 'automatic entry' into the school; a child's baptism must be reflected by the child and their family in their involvement in the life of the parish, i.e. through their faith practice, participation in Mass and their sharing in the various works and ministries of the parish.

The Family Profile form requires families to indicate how long they have sustained their current Mass practice. Understandably COVID-19 impacted on the ability of families to gather in the church building to attend face to face Mass. Thankfully the opportunity to return to 'face to face' Masses resumed back in late 2021. The form asks you to indicate your level of Mass attendance.

Due to the large number of enrolments, the consistency of a family's faith practice (i.e. sharing their God given gifts of time, talent and financial treasure) will be taken into account in line with the Diocesan Enrolment Policy.

As stated at the outset of this letter, the Family Profile form (that we ask be completed for all future enrolments at St Justin's Primary School) will offer all families seeking to enrol their child at St Justin's the opportunity to provide valuable information that will assist us to fairly and appropriately assess the many applications we will receive.

For more information on this Family Profile or the Diocesan enrolment policy & procedures, please do not hesitate to contact the school for further assistance and advice.

May God bless you and your family.

Fr.  


Fr David Catterall  
PARISH PRIEST



Mr Kevin Devine  
PRINCIPAL