



GOOD COUNSEL COLLEGE

PROSPECTUS

gcc.qld.edu.au 4063 5300

WELCOME

Welcome to the Good Counsel College community.

Good Counsel College is a Catholic co-educational secondary school founded in 1975 by the Marist Brothers and part of the Mother of Good Counsel Parish in Innisfail.

At Good Counsel College every student is known and valued. We are committed to providing quality education in a safe and nurturing environment where students can grow emotionally, spiritually, academically and physically. We encourage all members of our community to become independent, lifelong learners and to be hope-filled, with the desire, knowledge and skills to make the world a better place.

Students have access to multiple pathways and are empowered to make meaningful life choices. The college boasts engaging and professional staff, diverse subject choices and modern facilities.

We acknowledge parents and caregivers as the primary educators of their children. Our parents and caregivers are proactive in engaging with the college in partnership as we strive to fulfil our moral imperative of improving the wellbeing and learning outcomes of all students, and welcome their contribution and involvement.

If you desire a quality education for your child, I encourage you to consider Good Counsel College.

Rosa Lanzo
Principal



MARIST IDENTITY

Imbued with the Marist charism, the essence of who we are and the ways we engage with one another as a community draw inspiration from the Five Marist Characteristics. *Faithful to the Catholic tradition and responsive to contemporary times*, these Five Characteristics underpin our Positive Relationships for Learning framework:



Presence

At Good Counsel College, we prioritise establishing a genuine presence with our students. We take a personal interest in their wellbeing, making an effort to know each student individually. Our relationships are grounded in love, fostering an environment of attentiveness and warmth. By earning trust and promoting openness, we create a sense of community within which students can flourish.

Simplicity

Simplicity is a core value at Good Counsel College. We practice honesty and transparency, both in our beliefs and actions. Our commitment to humility and modesty is reflected in our approach, aiming to "do good quietly." Teachings emphasise simplicity, encouraging students to embrace this value in their lives, avoiding the seductive allure of material possessions and fame.

Family Spirit

The concept of family is integral to Good Counsel College. We treat each other as members of a loving family. We are dedicated to building a strong sense of community, offering a warm and accepting environment where students feel a sense of belonging. Successes and failures are shared, and we set clear standards of honesty, mutual respect, and tolerance. We see the innate goodness in every student, separating their actions from their core being. We give preferential attention to those in greater need and promote collaborative leadership.

Love of Work

We are people of work, approaching our daily tasks with dedication and the confidence that comes from our faith in God. Generosity of heart, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to our work are at the forefront of our ethos. Classes are prepared with vision and decisiveness to meet the needs of all students. We instill in our students the dignity of work as a source of self-fulfilment, emphasising that work can bring purpose and meaning to life. We focus on developing character, resilience, a balanced moral conscience, and solid values while fostering motivation and teamwork.

In the Way of Mary

At Good Counsel College, Mary is the epitome of a Marist educator, serving as an example of Christian life, a motherly figure, and a devout individual who praised God. We perceive Mary as someone who embarked on a journey of faith, experiencing life's challenges while maintaining her unwavering faith. We consciously integrate a Marian dimension into our teachings through prayer and by emulating Mary's tenderness, strength, and steadfast faith.

These principles guide Good Counsel College, creating an environment where students can thrive academically, emotionally, and spiritually.

VISION

Good Counsel College is a contemporary Catholic learning community where every student is known and valued.

We provide access to multiple pathways so that students are empowered to make meaningful life choices.

They are engaged in learning that is relevant, collaborative, and future-focused. Staff, students, parents and carers make up a safe, supportive environment where everyone belongs, working together to achieve positive outcomes for all.

We are a well-respected local college and proudly the school of choice in our community.

Our college boasts growing enrolments, engaging and highly professional staff, diverse subject choices, and modern facilities to support the needs of the college community.





VALUES

Good Counsel College's commitment to strengthening its Marist foundations can be found in the reimagining of the college values, in alignment with the key Marist characteristics of *Trust in God (Faith)*, *Presence (Compassion)*, *Simplicity (Integrity)*, *Family Spirit (Inclusivity)*, *Love of Work (Perseverance)* and *In the Way of Mary (Courage)*.

MISSION

To provide an engaging, supportive and high-quality Catholic education in a safe learning environment, allowing all students to succeed and contribute to a better world.



WELLBEING

At Good Counsel College, we are committed to the wellbeing and pastoral care of every student. We recognise the importance of being able to maintain one's own wellbeing as key to the development of strong and resilient young adults and allows students to value and support others in the community.

Our positive relationships framework provides students with a range of strategies to proactively deal with the everyday challenges that face contemporary teenagers.

We recognise that our students need guidance as they grow into young adults, and our Student Wellbeing Team made up of a number of key staff, meets regularly to formulate targeted support strategies for identified students.

The team includes:

Assistant Principal – Wellbeing
Year Level Wellbeing Leaders
College Counsellors
Diverse Learning Leader
Pathways Middle Leader
Indigenous Liaison Officer
Work & Transitions Officer

Support may be short-term or long-term and could involve support that may be emotional, learning, behavioural, social or physical.



In Years 7 to 10, students will have one hour per week of Social Emotional Learning, in line with the Catholic Education Services' commitment to caring for the wellbeing and safety of all students. For Years 11 and 12 students, one hour per week is dedicated to Personal Development, providing practical life skills that focus on wellbeing, study skills and interpersonal skills.

Our vertical home group system provides continuity of pastoral care, on a daily basis, as students move through their secondary schooling.



TEACHING & LEARNING

Learning and teaching is the core activity at Good Counsel College and is in accordance with the Diocesan Learning Framework.

Our focus is to provide quality education for all students. The college offers a range of experiences, services and resources across the various curriculum offerings to support the educational goals of all students and develop 21st-century learning skills throughout their educational pathway.

Our facilities provide a modern and contemporary environment for 21st-century learning. Our extensive use of communication and information technology (ICT) and our 1:1 laptop program provides the ideal platform for students to engage with their learning in a variety of ways that challenge and inspire them to reach their potential.

We provide:

- A dedicated Learning Team to oversee learning across all subject areas including Religion, English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, The Arts, Languages, Digital Technologies and Health & Physical Education.
- Vocational Education & Training Certificates in many different areas
- Extra-curricular activities including public speaking, Ignite Conference, Brain Bee Challenge, Young Performers, community engagements and sporting competitions
- Opportunities to participate in competitions including ICAS, Optiminds, Interschool Chess, Write a Book in a Day
- Work Experience Program





CURRICULUM

In Years 7 to 10 students study across all areas of the Australian curriculum which encompasses six core subjects, Religion, English, Health and Physical Education, Humanities, Mathematics and Science. Languages, The Arts (Drama, Music, Media and Visual) and Technologies (Digital, Food, Textiles, Engineering & Furnishings) are offered as elective subjects.

In Year 10, all students in collaboration with the school and their parents will develop a Senior Education and Training Plan (SETP) that helps students structure their learning around their abilities, interests and ambitions. As part of the planning process, students think about their future, consider their abilities and investigate their options for careers and further education. The SETP is reviewed periodically in their senior years to monitor the student's progress and can be updated accordingly.

The SETP will guide students' senior pathway - Academic or Vocational or a combination of both. Students choosing an Academic pathway have many ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) subject options to select from in order to gain entry to their chosen tertiary qualification.

Extensive options are available to students taking the Vocational pathway, with certificate courses, general subjects and the opportunity to undertake a school-based traineeship or apprenticeship.

Regardless of the pathway, all studies contribute to their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).



DIVERSE LEARNING CENTRE

At Good Counsel College we value the diversity of students, recognise their rights and work towards meeting their educational and wellbeing needs in a supportive and caring environment.

Our Diverse Learning Team works in collaboration with families, the school community, and specialist staff from Catholic Education Services Cairns including advisory teachers, speech therapists, psychologists, language pathologists and occupational therapists to develop individualised pathways and options for students to help them achieve their goals.

FIRST NATIONS

Good Counsel College is passionately and practically committed to building strong partnerships with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, both within our college and wider community.

Teaching across all year levels and subjects includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island histories, cultures and perspectives. Our engagement focus also involves events such as Reconciliation and Sorry Day Assemblies, Meet and Greet BBQs, Closing the Gap Literacy Week, visiting speakers, and On Country professional development for our staff.

Our Indigenous Liaison Officer (ILO) provides support and assistance to indigenous students to remain engaged in their education and works to enhance student outcomes and source further education and employment opportunities.





At Good Counsel College we recognise the importance of physical activity through sport and fitness and encourage students to develop skills, understanding and attitudes that foster a life-long interest in physical activity and exercise that will enable them to live active and healthy lives during and beyond their years at school. From Year 7 to 10, Health & Physical Education is a compulsory part of the curriculum.

SPORTS

The college enjoys an active and vibrant sporting culture with a wide variety of sports on offer and supports students in their sporting endeavours at all levels of competition including local, district Peninsula and State level.

Our four college houses, Marcellin, MacKillop, Polding and Clancy compete throughout the year in intra-house sporting competitions and carnivals, vying for the inaugural Spirit Cup and Points Trophy. The competition is highly spirited yet friendly and lead-up to these special events is an exciting and spirited experience.





EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

Good Counsel College accepts enrolment applications at any time of the school year for students in Years 7-12.

Applications for enrolment can be made online or in person through the college office.

Parents seeking to enrol their child at Good Counsel College are required to give their full support to the college's Vision and Guiding Principles and commit to being part of our learning community, following our ethos and meeting our expectations in relation to learning, behaviour, participation and cooperation. While many of our students are Catholic, all young people are welcome.



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