

St Patrick's College
SILVERSTREAM



College Information for Applicants

Our Catholic Faith

We believe in the person of Jesus Christ

We believe in his teachings, as found in the Gospels

We believe in the inherent dignity of each human person and their limitless possibilities,

further developed by Christ's Grace and Mary's Inspiration.

We seek to live out the gospel daily in the way of Mary (the Marist Way)

Our students have identified the following virtues/values as ways of being Catholic and Marist at St Patrick's College Silverstream:

Courage

Faith

Humility

Support

Unity

"What a task it is to form a man!

How difficult it is

How much patience is required

But is there anything greater"

Fr Jean-Claude Colin, SM
Founder of the Society of Mary



St Patrick's College Silverstream

St. Patrick's College Silverstream is a College founded on Marist Values. These Marist values provide a way of living out the Gospel. It is a way that focuses on the compassion of Jesus. It focuses on the marginalised in society. It is a way that seeks to remove barriers from people rather than create new ones. It is a way that focuses on the individual rather than on any imposed expectations.

“What takes first place is the concern we have for our pupils. We will make a particular study of the character of each pupil and attempt to gain his confidence in order to better lead him to the Lord and help him more effectively with his work. We will treat our pupils with kindness, gentleness, civility and fairness.”

The Society of Mary's Founder Fr Colin SM

While the Marist Values provide a way of acting in this College we also have four guiding principles that inform our decision-making and actions:

Self-management- we want our students to grow into independent young men who can make correct and ethical decisions for themselves...young men who take responsibility for their own actions.

Belonging – we are all welcome here. No one should feel ostracized or belittled because they feel they are not part of this place. We celebrate diversity and differences and work to ensure that these differences are catered for within the life of the College. We are welcoming.

Values – We want our students to become ethical and principled young men. We particularly want them to 'be marist' in the way they live their lives...compassionate and 'outward looking' rather than self-serving.

Excellence – we want all members of our college community to 'be the best that they can be'. This means that 'excellence' is a subjective principle. We seek to always provide opportunities for all of our students to achieve the excellence that they are capable of.

In 2012 the students involved in the Marist Values Project selected the following five values as central to the Silverstream way: unity, support, courage, humility and faith.

PASTORAL CARE

"What a task it is to form a man. How difficult it is. How much patience is required. But is there anything greater?" **Fr JC Colin SM Founder of the Society of Mary**

Values Underpinning Our Pastoral Care System

The values upon which our pastoral care system is based are those of the Society of Mary – the 'Marist Fathers'.

Two of the key ideas behind the Marist Father's charism and their approach to 'mission' were the concepts of 'Mary as the Mother of Jesus' and the phrase often used by the order's founder Fr Colin 'unknown and hidden in the world.'

The first idea encourages us to act in a way that a Mother acts towards their child as 'they bring them up'. It alludes to notions such as protection, nurturing, compassion and empathy, guiding, encouraging, teaching, setting expectations etc. The second concept of "Hidden and unknown" was seen by the Marists as a way of being. Properly understood it meant 'standing in another's shoes'... 'looking at the world (or problem) through their eyes rather than your own'... 'being other-centered rather than self-centered'... 'not making yourself (or your ideals) a barrier to another's success'... 'not giving the answer before the question is even asked'.



" That is the Marist stance, to identify with the others, to stand in the shoes of the others, so that together we may address the problem, together we may meet the need or whatever it is... That's how you remain hidden and unknown. They don't notice you because you are identified with them.... And then there was that other maxim (used by Fr Colin), "Rome was very useful to me on this point. It was there that I learned the maxim 'Law was made for man.' If I cannot save him with the law, I'll try and save him without it" (FS. 163.2). "

"Born in the Shadows" Fr Pat Beasley, SM

Therefore:

- **'Expectations'**. We set/agree to clear and relevant goals and expectations with our College community. We ensure that our students understand the reasons for these expectations and our aim is always for them to learn to take responsibility for themselves in meeting them. We (students and staff) are allowed to make mistakes and see this as a chance to learn rather than a chance to judge or condemn.

- **Compassion.** We are focused on our students as individuals. We strive to respond to them on an individual basis. To do this we need to get to know them and recognise this is key to building strong positive relationships. We always try to understand what might be causing issues and work to address these issues on an individual basis rather than in applying a '1 rule fits all' approach.

- **Patience.** We 'walk along side of our students'. We encourage and support them to meet expectations and goals...*"to be the best that they can be"*. We treat mistakes as an 'opportunity to learn'. We are gently relentless in this.

- **Dignity.** No member of the College community should feel threatened or scared or unwelcome. All students (and staff) are valued and treated with dignity and their differences celebrated. The rights of each individual – including the right to learn – are paramount.

The pastoral system at St Patrick's College can therefore be said to be based on building strong relationships, and fostering a sense of belonging. When things go wrong, we look to understand what has happened and why. Where appropriate we aim to restore the harm done and re-establish respectful relationships. We encourage students to make choices and to take responsibility for their actions – all part of developing the key competency of managing self.



Vision for Teaching and Learning

St Patrick's College, Silverstream

The Silverstream learner will engage in a personalised learning programme which embraces collaboration across learning areas and seeks to develop self-directed learners who strive for personal excellence. The teaching and learning will be centred on the needs of the learner, supported by a flexible and welcoming learning environment enabled by technology. The learning environment will facilitate the daily encounter with Christ and promote the development of compassionate, just and successful global citizens who contribute to their community. (2014)

The vision for teaching for teaching and learning at St. Patrick's College, Silverstream outlines the pedagogical direction we as teachers are working towards. This is a journey of learning and development for teachers and students alike. We acknowledge that the C21st learner will require key competencies such as critical thinking, the ability to collaborate and innovate, the skills to work both independently and interdependently, and as teachers it is our role to facilitate such learning. As teachers we need to create conditions for learning that encourage our students to engage meaningfully with the material being studied so that they can connect it to life outside of school, and more importantly, to their own lives.

Our teachers engage in reflective practice, focused on teaching as inquiry, and gather evidence of effective practice against the Practising Teacher Criteria (previously RTCs) in their professional learning portfolios. Teacher learning and professional growth is supported by learning alongside each other in professional learning groups, by participating in school-wide inquiry groups, and by attending pedagogy 'popups'. The opportunity to engage in professional learning externally through workshops and conferences is also provided for.

For further information on teacher learning and teaching as inquiry at St. Patrick's College, Silverstream view the following case study on TKI: <http://assessment.tki.org.nz/Assessment-in-the-classroom/Teaching-as-inquiry/St-Patrick-s-College-Silverstream-case-study>