



# WELCOME TO MARIAN COLLEGE ARARAT

Marian College offers a unique educational experience where every student can not only learn but flourish. When students leave our school our aim is to have supported them to be people who are welcoming, respectful and inclusive, to be people who embrace learning and strive for excellence in all they do and to be people who are responsible, independent and ready to be contributing members of society. We recognise that the measure of education goes beyond academic achievement; it is also about nurturing the whole person—spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally. Each student at Marian College is valued, seen and heard and belongs wholeheartedly to our community.

A Kildare Ministries school, Marian College is a Catholic co-educational secondary college founded by the Brigidine Sisters in 1889. We have a deep and rich tradition, recontextualised to address ongoing and emerging needs of our world. Today, Marian College continues to provide excellent opportunities for students to learn, to be curious, to grow and to flourish. Our vision is to provide a dynamic and nurturing educational environment where students can thrive and where they can be both supported and challenged in their learning. We provide learning opportunities that are meaningful and which connect our students to the world beyond the classroom. Recognising that students learn differently, our broad curriculum and our Learning and Teaching pedagogy promotes a culture of continuous improvement and growth.

At Marian College, we are committed to living out the values of courage, wonder, justice, hospitality, compassion and hope which are at the heart of our community. These values inspire us to foster a safe, respectful and inclusive environment where students are encouraged to embody *Fortiter et Suaviter*—strength and gentleness—in all they do.

Thank you for considering Marian College. We look forward to welcoming you into our vibrant, learning centred and faith-filled community as we work together to shape a bright and promising future for your child.

Catherine Howison  
Principal  
2025 – The Year of Hospitality.



*Marian College is a dynamic and nurturing Kildare Education Ministries school in the Brigidine tradition*



# LEADERSHIP TEAM



Catherine Howison  
Principal



Alexandra Abela  
Head of Staff  
Development



Michelle Hogan  
Head of Learning  
and Teaching



Leonie McGuckian  
Business Manager



Steph Saravanja  
Head of Wellbeing

# HUB LEADERS & COORDINATORS

## STEM – Science & Mathematics



Sue MacPherson



Rodney Clarke



Dani Smith  
Applied Learning



Rhonda North  
Learning Diversity  
& Year 7 Transition

## CAL – Culture & Language



Stephanie Mansell



Christine Bulger



Marlo Drake-Bemelmans  
Religious Education



Tanya Waterson  
Justice

## PEAT – PE, Arts & Technology



Paul McLoughlan



Jakki Gibson



Bas Otto  
Drama



Natalie Wirper  
Literacy



# HOUSE LEADERS



**Erica McConachy**  
Head of Barron

The symbol of Barron House is Fire which represents light, warmth, welcome, transformation and passion for justice. Fire is a symbol of energy and light in pre-Christian times. 'Brigid's Fire', a flame that was never extinguished, burnt in Kildare until the sixteenth century when King Henry VIII had it extinguished as part of the Reformation.



**Mary-Lou Boatman**  
Head of Clancy

The White Dove symbolizes innocence, gentleness and peace. All qualities St Brigid was known for. Animals play a significant role in many of her legends, with St Brigid possessing a deep respect for all of creation. So, just as St Brigid cared for the animals, so to do we strive to be stewards of the animals and of the Earth.



**Donna Spalding**  
Head of Kelly

The symbol of Kelly House is a jewelled sword. The inspiration behind this chosen symbol is St. Brigid who, it is said, gave away her father's valuable jewelled sword to a needy family so that they could sell it for food and shelter. The symbol of the sword emphasizes a commitment to social justice and altruism, and reminds us of what is truly important in society – equity and justice for all.



**Nick Lloyd**  
Head of Synnott

The chosen symbol of Synnott House is the lighted Brigidine lamp which represents the light of Christ and the light of learning. The lamp emphasises the importance of learning and is a common symbol across Brigidine schools. The lamp serves as a constant reminder that we are all on a lifelong path of learning and it represents the importance of all individuals in the Marian College Community.

# COLLEGE VISION

Marian College is a dynamic and nurturing Kildare Education Ministries Catholic school in the Brigidine tradition. We are committed to ensuring a vibrant and challenging educational environment of learning and personal growth. Our safe supportive environment will empower our young people to become part of a generation responsible for bringing positive change to our world.

## Graduate Outcomes

Young people with an awareness of spirituality and faith

- Who are welcoming, respectful and inclusive.
- Who are hope-filled, confident and reflective.
- Who embrace a life-long love for learning and strive for excellence in all they do.
- Who are responsible, independent and ready to bring positive change to their community.
- Who endeavour to reflect the Brigidine Core Values in all they do.

## Governance

In September 2013, Kildare Ministries was established by the Holy See as a Public Juridic Person (PJP) at the request of the Congregation of the Sisters of St Brigid (Brigidine Sisters) to succeed and to carry on the ministries previously conducted by the Brigidine Sisters in Australia. As a PJP, the Trustees of Kildare Ministries are to the Catholic authority for Marian College.

## Stewardship Council

The Stewardship Council of Marian College has delegated authority from Kildare Education Ministries in matters such as policy, strategic planning and community engagement. A Kildare Education Ministries (KEM) Board Director will attend Stewardship Council Meetings as a non-voting member and point of contact with the KEM Board. The KEM Board Member is also a source of support for the Principal and the Chair of the Stewardship Council.

The major functions of the Stewardship Council are;

1. To support the Principal as a group that informs key decision making for the school.
2. To monitor the structure and processes that exist for the school to be a high performing place of learning and wellbeing for students.
3. To monitor and contribute to the development of policies for the school.
4. To plan for the future by studying trends in education, local demography and emerging needs.
5. To monitor the recurrent and capital finances of the school.
6. To participate, together with staff, in the development of strategic planning, the Annual Action and Master plans for the school.
7. To contribute to the positive promotion of the school within the wider community.



# TUITION FEES

## Payment Options

School Fees may be paid using any of the following options:

- Cash
- EFTPOS
- Credit Card
- BPAY
- Direct Debit
- Centrepay

Marian College is committed to providing an affordable fee structure, which is kept deliberately low to ensure that parents/guardians wishing to access a high quality of education are able to do so within their local community.

It is our commitment to support our families at this stage by retaining our current low fees. Please see the only exceptions below.

### Table of School Fees - 2025

First Child	\$2,236
Second Child	\$1,790
Third Child	\$1,565
Fourth Child	\$1,118

Marian College offers a Fee Payment Plan for all families. This plan allows families to choose how they pay their child's fee's by choosing a payment method and the frequency of payments.

These fees are inclusive of tuition and excursion costs. Parents/Guardians wishing to enrol students, but who have concerns about being able to afford the fees, should contact the College Business Manager.

We offer a \$400 per student discount to students whose parents have a Veterans Affairs Gold Card or are eligible for a Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC).

## Additional Costs

Marian College also charges the following costs:

- \$135.00 Annual iPad charge. This is charged to Year 7-9 students and cover the cost of the iPad provided to students in Year 7. Ownership transfers to parents/guardians at the end of Year 9.
- Cost of electronic books and programs that are paid in bulk by the College. These electronic book/programs substitute for books that would have appeared on the student booklist previously.

Please note that additional charges of iPad levy, digital books and Edrolo fees can be added to your payment plan or invoiced to you directly.

## Booklists

Marian College endeavours to minimise the cost of all resources, however, this can vary according to the subjects studied and year level. Booklists will be available in Term 4. Text books and associated stationery are provided by an external party managing the process, who also organise the distribution at the start of the year.

Students may use second hand texts where they are the same edition as texts prescribed on the booklist. Parents/Guardians experiencing difficulty paying upfront costs of the booklist should contact the College Business Manager to discuss alternative payment arrangements.

# WELLBEING AND REPORTING

## Wellbeing and Pastoral Care

At Marian College the wellbeing of every child is primary to effective learning. Our Wellbeing and Pastoral Care programs are extensive and designed to meet individual needs of students. From Wellbeing Team, Psychologist, Learning Diversity Team, OAK Program Leaders and House Leaders to Teacher Advisors, each play a vital role in supporting all students. At Marian College we understand students thrive best when they are happy. Part of developing that happiness is by understanding teenagers and by providing guidance and support to build confidence, resilience and positive relationships with others.

Our Teacher Advisor (TA) system develops strong, lasting, positive relationships between students, families and the College. Continued reporting provides relationships Parents with an opportunity to engage in your child's learning, to ask questions, and to ensure your child does not 'fall between the cracks'.

Our comprehensive monitoring processes enable staff to quickly identify students for extra support and extension opportunities. At Marian College we understand each child is unique and should be valued for their own gifts.

## Counselling Service

At times students may experience stress in their life. For most, this is a normal part of navigating the teenage years. With increased stress levels, extenuating circumstances, family tragedy or illness, some students seek extra support to build necessary skills to flourish. Students can self-refer or have parents refer on their behalf. IF you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing please do not hesitate to contact our Head of Wellbeing.

## Report and Parent Access Module (PAM)

Marian College provides parents and students with opportunities for continual online reporting and feedback. Parents/Guardians are emailed a PAM welcome email once the student has been accepted. This allows parents/guardians to use the email that they provide to the school on the student application form as the username and then can create a unique password so that they can sign in at any time. For families with internet access difficulties or other needs, a hard copy can be supplied on request.

Opportunities are available to support your child's learning, to encourage and affirm their growth, and to assist them to organise their time for upcoming assessment tasks.

Reports are provided about every 6-7 weeks and include academic and wellbeing progress.

## Medication Permission

The dispensing of medication by the staff of Marian College is governed by the Marian College Medication Policy. Consent is required from parents/guardians via PAM under the students Medical Profile. The Marian College Medication Policy requires clear instructions of the dosage for each student as well as verbal permission via phone call each time your child requests Paracetamol or Ibuprofen. If staff are unable to contact you, your emergency contact may be asked to grant permission. Medication cannot be administered on verbal consent alone.





# PROCEDURE FOR MOBILE PHONES

## School Procedures for use of Mobile Phone, Earbuds, Ear Phones and Smart Watches

Marian College, like all schools, grapples with the use of mobile phones and other forms of technology as educational learning tools and as a distraction to learning.

### *“Off and Away”.*

For the purpose of this document, the term Mobile Phone includes but is not exclusive to Apple and Smart Watches, Earbuds and Earphones.

1. The school discourages students from bringing mobile phones to school. We are, however, aware that phones will come to school for a variety of reasons.
2. If a student chooses to bring their mobile phone to school, it **MUST** remain in their locker and be turned off for the duration of the day.
  - a. Exceptions to the above can be made at the discretion of the classroom teacher for specific application, with prior approval from the Head of Learning & Teaching either Senior or Junior School.
    - i. An example of exceptions (but not limited to); class based learning activities that involve using ‘apps’ that students have on their phones.
  - b. Failure to charge an iPad or computer at the appropriate time is not a legitimate reason for permission to use a phone in class.
  - c. The school takes **NO** responsibility for damaged, lost or misplaced phones if the locker is not locked.
3. In cases of extraordinary circumstances, Parents are asked to apply for an exemption for their child directly to the Principal. An example of an extraordinary circumstance includes (but is not limited to) students with medical diagnoses reliant on the use of phone applications for health monitoring and assessment.

A breach of these procedures will result in the mobile phone being taken by the schools’ representative and stored at the front office for the remainder of the day. If the breach becomes a regular occurrence a school representative will make contact home.



# UNIFORM

Wearing the Marian College uniform promotes a sense of individual and collective pride in students and clear identification with the school. It enhances the safety of students both within and outside the school environment and also promotes equality and uniformity that prevents direct discrimination. It provides students with a comfortable and suitable uniform for all learning activities.

## Expectations

- The correct wearing of school uniform applies during school hours, while travelling to and from school and when students are on school excursions where uniform is a requirement.
- All students must wear the correct school uniform. School uniform is available from Fosters Mensland in Stawell and Ararat.
- All students are expected to attend school in clean, well maintained uniform and keep a high level of personal hygiene.
- Shoes must be full-fitting, traditional leather school shoe with lace up fronts. Any type of runner can be worn on days that students have PE.
- Shoulder length hair must be tied up off the face.
- Face must be clean shaven.
- The only acceptable jewellery are stud earrings and sleepers (plain gold or silver) worn in the ears and watches.
- No makeup may be worn at school.
- Headwear or hair ties must be consistent with school colours – ie: Navy
- Donation of second hand uniforms can be made to our office to help with emergency wear.
- It is compulsory for students to wear an approved school SunSmart hat whenever they are outdoors during Terms one and four. Students who do not bring a hat for these activities will be restricted to the RTC.
- Parents are required to send a note to the TA teacher if their child is out of uniform. The TA teacher will monitor notes and contact parents if a student is consistently producing an out of uniform note.
- Students who are out of uniform without a parental note will follow school procedure of recording this information in their diary.
- On Free Dress days the SunSmart and shoe rules still apply.
- Arrangements can be made through consultation with the Principal (or delegate) to offer assistance to supply uniforms for families experiencing economic hardship.
- Parents seeking exemptions to the Dress Code due to religious beliefs, ethnic or cultural background, student disability, health condition or economic hardship must apply in writing to the Principal.



Uniform can be purchased at Fosters Mensland, Ararat & Stawell. Second hand uniform is available at Marian College Reception. Families are welcome to peruse.

Please note that the school tie is optional

Sports Uniform can be worn on PE Prac days. Teacher will advise students of this day. Any runner or sneaker can be worn.



## BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

## RESPONSIBLE THINKING PROCESS

**Student Behaviour Support**

Marian College will provide students with opportunities to develop self-discipline, ownership, responsibility and respect. The Responsible Thinking Program (RTP) provides students with the mechanisms and quiet setting to reflect on the behaviours that are impacting their learning and the learning of others. Staff will assist students to develop a plan forward to build the necessary skills for positive engagement. The Responsible Thinking Program builds mutual respect by encouraging students to see their own actions as behaviours they can control, and demonstrate at an appropriate time and in an appropriate way. The Responsible Thinking Classroom (RTC) is an important step in this process to ensure that rights of others to learn and the right of the teachers to teach is respected.

**The Responsible Thinking Process (RTP)**

Many issues of behaviour concerns can be managed the lowest level while maintaining the dignity of all, once addressed, the lesson can continue without future issues. Even with our positive approaches to teaching and supportive positive behaviours, some problem behaviours will still occur. In 2016, Marian College adopted a whole-school expectation and shared language to address inappropriate or disruptive students' behaviour across the College. Our goal of forming right behaviours and respectful relationships is to provide a supportive community where students can learn from their mistakes and build and restore relationships. Punitive actions, which may belittle, embarrass, harm or humiliate a student are never acceptable at Marian College.

*First Level* – The RTP uses a series of questions as the first level strategy used by staff which gives students the opportunity to think about their behaviour.

1. *What are you doing?* – this calls the students attention to the action/disruption and indicates it is inappropriate.
2. *What is the rule?* – this question asks students to articulate the expected behaviour.
3. *What happens when you break the rule?* – this question asks students to articulate the likely consequence if inappropriate behaviour continues (i.e. the student goes to the RTC)
4. *Is that what you want?*
5. *What do you need to do now?* – this question asks students to identify what they need to do to change their behaviour.
6. *What will happen if you disrupt again?* – the final question clarifies that the student has indeed understood the consequences of any further inappropriate behaviour.

*Second Level* – should any inappropriate behaviour occur again; the staff member will ask;

1. *What are you doing? (as per level 1)*
2. *What did you say would happen the next time you disrupt?* – this question reminds the student of the consequences they articulated and that in fact, now those consequences will come to pass. The student moves to the RTC.

In the RTC students are fully supervised by a staff member to assist the student to develop more effective classroom strategies to help them achieve success in that subject area. Parents will be notified via the student's diary whenever their child chooses by their behaviour to attend the RTC. On-going behavioural issues, serious safety breaches or regular attendance in the RTC, will typically result in discussion with parents/guardians and suitable actions taken by the College Leadership.

Parents are encouraged to discuss any matters of concern with your child's TA or House Leader. Monitor the student diary regularly for notes, and to support positive behaviour and development through discussion of a plan with your child.

# ONLINE SAFETY

## Staying Safe Online

There is great potential for the use of social media in school communities in terms of educational outcomes and as a means of communication. However, keeping young people safe while online is increasingly challenging for parents and schools as technology rapidly develops. A whole school community approach and commitment to respectful relationships are essential elements to foster positive communication within our community.

At Marian College we recognise that as teachers and parents we have the ability to serve as positive role models for students in affording all people within our community dignity and respect at all times. We know too, that young people learn by example to manage conflict and disagreement in appropriate and respectful ways that do not harm others. When this does not occur and when there has been little thought for justice or the opportunity of the other party to present their view, the reputation and wellbeing of an individual may be severely damaged. Introducing, modelling and reinforcing positive online behaviours are important components of a student's educational experience. In support of this we offer the following Guiding Principles for our school community.

## Guiding Principles for all Members of the Marian College Community

Online behaviour is the responsibility of every member of the schools' community. The partnership and shared responsibility among staff, students and family members is an integral feature of good communication to promote a healthy, supportive environment for all students. At all times, online behaviour should demonstrate respect for the dignity of the human person made in the image of God.

Contentious issues, concerns or disagreement should be discussed directly with the person/s concerned either face-to-face or on the phone in a respectful, calm and courteous manner. Online communication should be avoided wherever possible in these instances to avoid confusion, misunderstanding or misrepresentation of tone and manner. For discussion with the College about an issue involving your child, an email to the TA is the first instance to arrange a time to talk is the most appropriate action.

All members of our community should refrain from posting offensive, demeaning, abusive, harassing or discriminatory material.

Students must learn that posting material that may be perceived as damaging to others or the reputation of the College (e.g. commentary about staff, students or parents/guardian using the school logo, photographs of the school, staff or students or other identifying images, or making personal comments that can be identified as relating to school issues) is not acceptable without first obtaining the permission of the Principal. Young students need our guidance to understand that what they say online has implications and often consequences.

Online safety is best achieved when there is open communication between home and school. If for any reason there is a concern about online behaviour, it is important to contact the school. This means the concern can be addressed in a timely manner and parents, staff and students can work together in a productive way to resolve the matter.



### Protecting Your Child Online – Cyber Safety

Teach your child to report all forms of cyber bullying. Save the evidence and block the contact. Make sure they know not to divulge personal information or arrange to meet with people they do not know. If your child uses social media have them share their privacy setting with you and know their ‘friends.’ Children under 12 should not be on social media networks. Keep computers in public places. By understanding more about how your children are connecting online and what they are specifically using technology for, you will be better able to promote safe online behaviours.

For example;

- No technology in bedrooms after a certain, suitable hour at night.
- No closed doors when using technology away from family areas.
- Teach your child about the dangers of talking to strangers online.
- Talk openly about their self-confidence and resilience and dispel the notion that affirmations come from strangers online who may either ‘like’ their actions, look or lifestyle or make derogatory comments that can potentially harm their self-image and worth.

Should you have any queries, or wish to seek further information about how Marian College can support you and your child’s safe use of technology, please contact the school.

Other information is available from many sources such as: <http://bullyingnoway.gov.au>

# EXCURSIONS

### Excursions – Parent Access Module (PAM) and EdSmart

Marian College uses a paperless note system for excursions and other events where we seek parent/guardian permission. The online ‘PAM’ and ‘EdSmart’ permissions remove the inefficiency of paper based permission slips and forms. Information and permission forms will be emailed to you. You are able to complete the form online and return instantly.

The PAM and EdSmart systems are designed for ease of use and the paperless existence. Staff are able to know who has completed the forms, granted permission to attend events, those who have viewed the information and those who have not accessed the email. To make the system as effective as possible we ask that all parents check with the school to make sure that your email address is up-to-date.

# SOCIALS

Be sure to keep up to date with us on Facebook and Instagram pages;



Marian College Ararat



Instagram



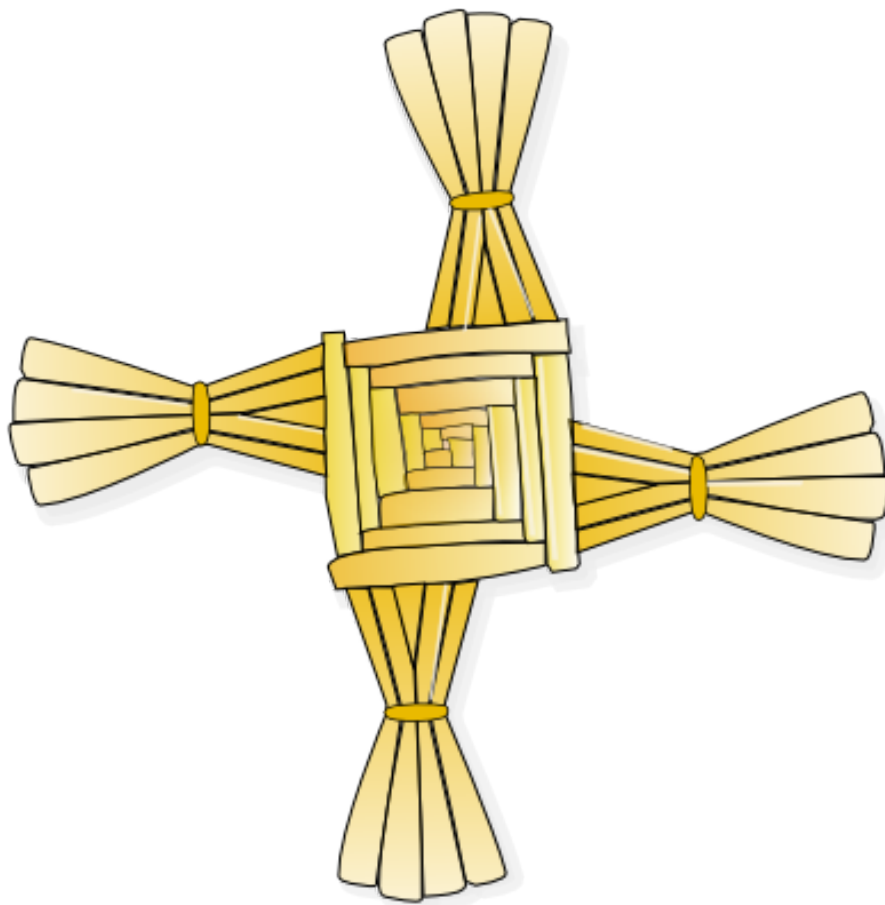
mariancollegeararat



# *Strength and Gentleness*

*Welcoming all, especially the most vulnerable.*

*2025 – The Year of Hospitality.*



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