



# YEAR 7 PARENT HANDBOOK 2026

Everything you need to know before your young person starts their journey through secondary school.

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# About Iona College

Iona College Geelong is a Catholic co-educational secondary school located in Charlemont on Wadawurrung Country within the rapidly growing Armstrong Creek area between Geelong and the Surf Coast. Recognising the need for a second co-educational Catholic college, Catholic Education Melbourne established Iona College Geelong in 2020.

The College takes its name from one of the most significant Catholic sites in the British Isles. The Monastery of Iona was known as a “centre of learning by the sea,” and our College embraces this legacy by serving and supporting a growing and vibrant community.

As a Catholic school, Iona is deeply committed to the service of others, particularly those who are marginalised. Our College motto, Learning to Change the World, shapes our identity and guides our work with students, encouraging them to develop their faith and take responsibility as members of a compassionate and just society.

We champion four aspirational values: Compassion, Leadership, Excellence, and Courage. These values are lived and reinforced throughout our students' educational journey, with frequent opportunities to take practical action aligned with the College's mission.

In 2025, Iona marks a significant milestone with the presence of our first full Year 7–12 cohort. Our foundation students will graduate as our inaugural Year 12 class, and this year also sees the introduction of our first-ever College Leaders through a new Student Leadership Model, an important step in shaping our culture.



Our teaching staff have built a learning program focused on individualised, differentiated and integrated approaches. This allows us to apply contemporary educational theory and practice to support each student in achieving academic success.

Iona also places strong emphasis on holistic wellbeing for both students and staff. Our curriculum embeds Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), Mindfulness, Respectful Relationships and Positive Education, equipping students with tools for resilience and growth.

We offer a broad range of co-curricular opportunities, including immersion programs, year-level Camps, interstate and overseas study tours, and a growing presence in the GISSA Sports Program. A diverse selection of sports and extracurricular activities is supported by passionate, skilled coaches and educators.

The College has completed three of the four planned stages in its master plan. Planning is underway for our next stage: a new library, student services hub and administration centre. This development will also allow the relocation of Music and Performing Arts to a new, purpose designed space. These facilities will serve the full Year 7–12 student body and strengthen our VCE, Vocational Major, VET, and equivalent learning pathways.

Iona fosters a culturally safe environment by encouraging and supporting First Nations students to express and enjoy their culture and identity. We value and embed culture in recognition of those who cared for this land long before our College was established.

Governance of the College is overseen by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS). Further information is available at: <https://www.macs.vic.edu.au>. An Advisory Council supports the College through its foundational years, comprising two Canonical Administrators, community members with specific expertise, and parent representatives.



# Welcome to Iona



## **Mr Damian McKew - Foundation Principal**

I am pleased to welcome you to Iona College as your young person enters Year 7. We look forward to working with your family in a partnership that promotes the holistic development of each student in our care.

At the centre of our support for your young person is our focus on the wellbeing of each individual. Put simply, our students will not learn unless they are well in mind and body. We are committed to continuing to build a school that ensures the wellbeing of all members of our community.

As a Catholic school, we seek opportunities to develop personal faith and are committed to nurturing each student towards an understanding of their own spirituality. We encourage student contribution to our community and advocate for those who are marginalised. In 2025, we will continue to put increased focus on student voice and agency so that our students continue to be active contributors in their own learning journey. We also welcome your voice as parents/guardians and the first educators of your young person as this will contribute positively to the continued growth of our College.

This handbook is designed to provide each family with an overview of important information you may require as a new member of the Iona community and we hope that you find it helpful.

We have been blessed with a wonderful opportunity to continue to build upon a very special environment at Iona. I, along with Kylie Power, our Deputy Principal for Wellbeing and Melissa Gould, our Deputy Principal for Learning, look forward to sharing your young person's secondary school journey with you as they enter Year 7 in 2026.

Mr Damian McKew  
Foundation Principal

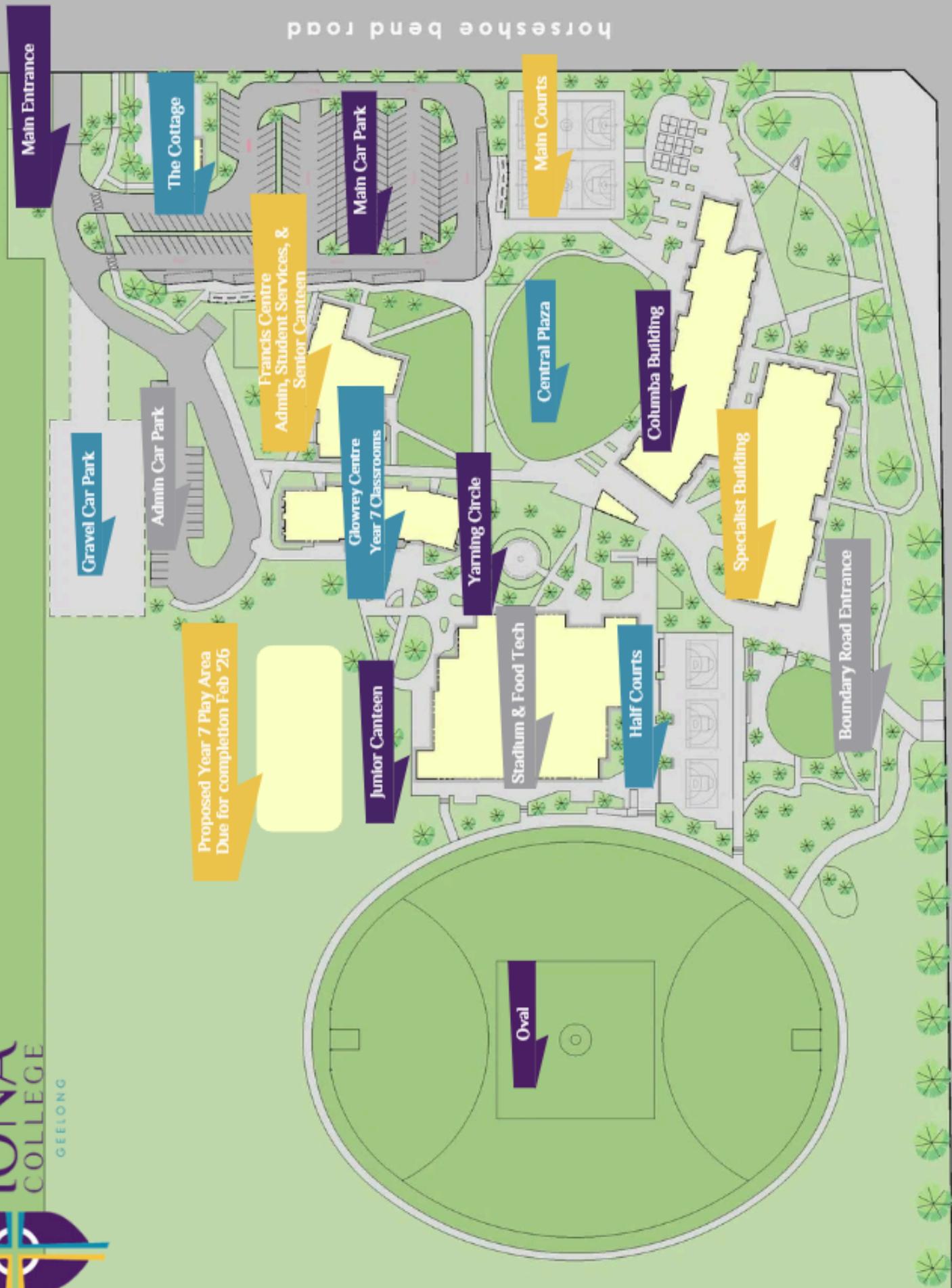


**Ms Kylie Power**  
**Deputy Principal Wellbeing**



**Mrs Melissa Gould**  
**Deputy Principal Learning**

# College Map



# Spots of Significance

## The Iona Cross



**The Iona Cross carries our stories of our ancestors and Catholic tradition, connecting the College to First Nations and the sacred mystical ground of Iona Scotland.**

### OUR CATHOLIC STORY

The warrior angel, offering protection over the community, graces the head of the cross.

The four pillars of the church, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are shown in animal form, according to Ezekiel's vision; these creatures also represent the four winds of the earth.

The Christian symbol of Christ is at the base of the Iona Cross.



### OUR LOCAL STORY

At the top sits, Bunjil, the Creator Spirit, acknowledging First Peoples and the Country on which the school has been built.

A land of wind-swept plains, resilient gum laurels, sacred waters, seas and rivers teaming with life.

The vine wreath and the fruits of its growth represent the College community. An ancient gum, habitat of many creatures and a symbol of strength, its central to the cross.

Celtic knots tie the four houses of the school together as a community.

The house patrons look outwardly from the currach, the small Irish boat; this represents journeys and the courage needed for new beginnings.

# Spots of Significance

## The Yarning Circle



Yarning circles have been used by First Peoples for thousands of years. They are a place for storytelling where cultural knowledge is preserved and passed between generations. Through yarning, voices are heard, people participate, respectful relationships are created, and personal and communal growth occurs.

**12 Bottle Trees** - native to Australia. Commonly used by Indigenous people. Each tree represents one of Columba's followers who journeyed with him to Iona.

**Bunjil** - the Creator Spirit, looks over the Yarning Circle and those within it.

Running through the centre of the Yarning Circle is a huge **Celtic cross**! This is a symbol of our faith. Celtic crosses were a way to tell Christian stories through carved images. The cross and the Yarning Circle are connected and at the heart of our Iona story.

**Native plants** around the Yarning Circle. Good for weaving and possibly edible!

**Firepit** - the exact centre of the grounds of Iona College! Symbolism is local and can be seen below.

- First Nations - for hunting, cooking, warmth, managing landscape and as a place to pass down stories and wisdom
- Catholics - transformation and new understandings. The presence of the Holy Spirit and God and guiding the way to live as Jesus did.

Our **House patrons and values** are represented on the seating.

**Francis** - COURAGE  
**MacKillop** - LEADERSHIP  
**Glowrey** - EXCELLENCE  
**Chisholm** - COMPASSION



# Welcome from the Year 7 Wellbeing Leaders



**Jesse Sutton**



My name is Jesse Sutton, and I'm thrilled to introduce myself as one of your young person's Wellbeing Leaders at Iona College for 2026. Beginning secondary school is an exciting chapter in their educational journey, and I'd like to take a moment to share a little about myself and my approach to teaching and learning.

2026 will mark my fourth year teaching at Iona College and my third year supporting students through the important transition from Grade 6 into Year 7. Over the past two years in the Assistant Year 7 Wellbeing Leader role, I've come to deeply value a holistic approach to education, one that supports students in reaching their full potential and becoming the best version of themselves, while fostering an inclusive and positive classroom environment.

At Iona, we're passionate about creating a dynamic and engaging learning experience where students grow both academically and personally. As a Wellbeing Leader, I'm committed to helping your young person develop essential skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication, while also nurturing their social and emotional wellbeing. Guided by our college values of compassion, courage, leadership, and excellence, I strive to create a safe and supportive space where students feel inspired to explore their interests, build resilience, and develop a lifelong love of learning.

I look forward to a wonderful year of learning and growth with your young person. Together, we can help them achieve their goals and build a strong foundation for their future. I'm excited to collaborate with you to ensure the best possible educational experience.

Thank you for entrusting Ned and myself with the privilege of supporting your young person. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Jesse Sutton  
Year 7 Year Level Wellbeing Leader  
[jesse.sutton@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:jesse.sutton@iona.vic.edu.au)

# Welcome from the Year 7 Wellbeing Leaders



**Ned Aulsebrook**



Hello everyone,

I'm really excited to be stepping into the role of Year 7 Wellbeing Leader next year. Before beginning here at Iona College at the start of 2024, I spent four years teaching Year 6. I know how big, and exciting, the jump to high school can be. Sometimes primary schools are a place of familiarity and comfort that can be hard to say goodbye to, and other times students and families are ready for the next chapter in their learning.

This experience has given me a good sense of what students need to feel supported, confident, and ready to take on this new challenge. Over the last two school years, I have taught maths at Year 7 through to Year 11. This has allowed me to see how students grow and change throughout their school journey, from the early stages all the way to senior years. My goal is to work with Jesse, our wellbeing team, community group teachers, and other college staff, to make the transition to secondary school as smooth as possible for students and their families.

I know that working closely with families is one of the most powerful ways to support students. Families are a young person's first and most important teacher, so building strong, positive partnerships helps create consistency between home and school.

Open communication, mutual trust, and a shared understanding of each young person's needs allow us to celebrate successes together and navigate challenges with a united approach. When families and teachers work as a team, students feel supported, valued, and cared for. This is exactly what helps them thrive. It is important that communication between families and the college is used, as it is a vital aspect to both the wellbeing and learning outcomes for students. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email or through Iona Reception.

Jesse and I will strive to create an environment where all students can be seen, heard and valued. It is crucial that students' social and emotional wellbeing is nurtured within the school environment, and students feel secure and supported by their peers and teachers. We will work together to develop a growth mindset and build resilience in and out of the classroom.

My motto (which I stole from my brother, who is also a teacher) is simple: be nice, try your best, and have fun. I believe relationships are at the heart of learning, and when we take care of each other, great things happen. I can't wait to get to know all our new Year 7s and work together to make their first year of secondary school a memorable one.

Ned Aulsebrook  
Year 7 Year Level Wellbeing Leader  
[ned.aulsebrook@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:ned.aulsebrook@iona.vic.edu.au)



# Orientation Day at Iona College

**Tuesday 9 December**

## Where to Go

Parents/Guardian are asked to drop students off at the main car park. Staff will be there to greet students and escort them to the Stadium to begin the day. At the end of the day, students will return to the same area for pick-up.

## What time

Students can be dropped off from 8:45am for a 9:00am start. The day concludes at 3:00pm.

## What to Wear

Students should wear their full Primary School uniform, including a hat.

## What to Bring

Please bring the following:

Pencil case

Drink bottle

Snack and lunch

## What to Expect

The day will begin in the Stadium, where students will receive a name tag and find a seat to start the day. They'll take part in a variety of fun and engaging activities designed to introduce them to life at Iona College. Students will be placed in mixed groups, including some familiar faces from their primary schools (please note: these are not their 2026 class groups).

Each student will receive an Orientation Day booklet and their 2026 Student Diary.



# First School Day at Iona College

## Thursday 29 January

### What to Expect

In their first week of Year 7, students will take part in a dedicated Transition Week designed to help them settle into high school life. Throughout the week, they'll rotate through a variety of sessions and activities that support a smooth and confident start to secondary school. These include:

- Workshops on how to use their laptops effectively
- Locker setup and organisation
- Reading and understanding their timetables
- School tours to become familiar with key locations
- “Getting to Know You” games to build friendships

Sessions run by external providers focused on navigating high school successfully

This week is all about building confidence, making connections, and setting students up for a great start to Year 7.

### Where to Go

Upon their arrival on the first day of secondary school, students are requested to proceed to the stadium. A team of staff members will be available to provide guidance and assistance. During this orientation, students will have the opportunity to become acquainted with key staff members. Furthermore, each community group will be announced, and students will be encouraged to stand up and align themselves with their respective classes. Their assigned teacher will be present to offer support and guidance throughout the day.

### What to Wear

On the first day of school, students are required to wear their formal uniform for the Year 7 Welcome Smoking Ceremony, which will be held in Iona's Yarning Circle.

### What to Bring

Students are required to carry their diary and booklet, a laptop will be provided to them on their first day of school. Additionally, they are expected to bring a pencil case, snack and any relevant medical documentation. They may bring their books daily throughout this week to prevent a heavy burden on any day.



# 2026 Term 1 Key Dates

Date	Event *
Tuesday 14 October	Year 7 Online Parent/Carer Information Night
Tuesday 18 November	Inclusive Education Information Night (Invite Only)
Tuesday 9 December	Year 7 Orientation Day
Thursday 29 January	Year 7, Year 12 and New Students (Year 8-11) First Day
Tuesday 10 February	School Photos (Formal Uniform)
Tuesday 17 February	Year 7 Parent/Carer 'In-Person' Welcome Evening
Monday 2 March	Iona College Swimming Carnival
Monday 9 March	Labour Day - Public Holiday
Friday 20 March	Pupil Free Day
Thursday 2 April	End of Term 1 (2:05pm)

## Year 7 Camp Dates

Date	Event *
Monday 1 June - Wednesday 3 June	Year 7 Group 1
Wednesday 3 June - Friday 5 June	Year 7 Group 2

\*Please note that these dates are provisional and subject to change. We will update this information as confirmed dates become available.



# How we Communicate with Parents

## Email

One of the main ways teachers and the College communicate with parents is via email. The email address you provide during your young person's enrolment will be used for this. If you change your email address or believe you are missing out on communication, please contact [ictservices@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:ictservices@iona.vic.edu.au)

## Weekly Newsletter

At the end of Thursday our weekly Newsletter goes out to all parents/carers. You will receive a link to the most current newsletter via email. The newsletter includes a principal's update, information about upcoming events, student free days and more. We recommend that you stay up to date with each weekly newsletter, so you don't miss out on any important news.

## PAM - Parent Access Module

We encourage parents/carers to check login to PAM regularly to check the calendar, student messages and notifications from the College. For detailed instructions on navigating and using PAM, including setting up your account, completing medical profiles, and reporting absences, [please refer to our comprehensive PAM guide](#).

## Social Media

Iona has an active presence on Facebook and Instagram. We like to give updates on student achievements, events, camps and more via our social media channels. Feel free to follow us:

 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ionacollegegeelong>

 Instagram: @ionacollegegeelong



# Student Absences

School attendance is a high priority at Iona College. We understand that it is not always possible and as such have developed the guide below to advise on how to report late arrivals, early departures and absences. Please refer to MACS School Attendance Policy for more information.

## **What to do if your young person is arriving late?**

Parents/carers are encouraged to enter any late arrivals on PAM. This can be done by selecting 'Add absence' on PAM, parents/carers can then select 'Arriving Late' under the 'Absence Period' heading and add the specific time a student is due to arrive, along with an explanation as to why they will be late. Any late arrivals are required to report to Main Reception in the Francis Centre. Students are then required to sign in using Iona's sign-in/sign out iPad. If the student is in Year 7, they must also hand in their mobile in at Main Reception, all remaining year levels are to hand their phones in at Student Reception in the Columba Building.

## **What to do if your young person is leaving early?**

Where possible we encourage parents/carers to make appointments outside of school hours. If a student needs to leave Iona College during the day, we encourage parents/carers to enter this 'early departure' into PAM. This can be done by selecting 'Add absence' on PAM, then select 'Leaving Early' under the 'Absence Period' heading listing the specific time the student will leave. If parents/carers have entered this in PAM staff are able to see the authority and explanation listed on PAM. Parents/carers must call Reception (5229 0004) when they have arrived in the Iona College carpark and we will then send your young person out to you. Alternatively, you may come into main reception to collect your young person.

## **What to do if your young person is absent?**

Iona's duty of care dictates that we need to know where our students are during school hours. As such we require parents to notify us of student absence.

## **Notify absence via PAM**

Login to your PAM account, select 'Add absence' on PAM, parents/carers can then select 'All day' or 'Multi-day' under the heading 'Absence Period'. If you are unable to log the absence via PAM please call reception and advise of the absence.

## **Extended Leave of Absence**

The gaps in your young person’s learning that may result from their absence from classes can – and often do – have a significant impact on the ability to understand the material that is presented and the tasks that are set during their absence, and it is important to note that teachers are not responsible for bridging that gap. Assessment tasks that are not completed will be reported as ‘Absent’ in both the Parent Access Module and your young person’s Statement of Results, and it may result in ‘No Progress’ being the outcome for the semester. As a College, we ask parents who choose to remove their young person from classes to consider the importance of the experience and the impact that this absence will have on their educational learning.

### **Extended Planned Absence From Classes (More than five days and up to 3 weeks)**

The College understands that there may be times when your young person is away from school for more than five days due to family holidays, and sporting competitions.

Families wishing to remove their young person from classes for an extended leave of absence must complete the Extended Leave of Absence Form (found in PAM) and return it to [registrar@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@iona.vic.edu.au).

### **Extended Leave of Absence (More than 3 weeks)**

Families wishing to request a leave of absence (more than three weeks away from school) must apply to the Principal.

An email outlining the following should be emailed to [registrar@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:registrar@iona.vic.edu.au) at least one month prior to the Leave of Absence if possible:

- the length of time the student will be away
- the reason the student requires leave of absence
- details of any other schools the student may be attending while on leave of absence
- attach a completed Extended Leave of Absence Form



# Ordering Educational Resources

Iona College uses an educational supplier with a simple online ordering process for textbooks, digital resources, and stationery. Once the Resource List becomes available, it will be emailed to you along with a link to place your order. The Resource List will also include a unique code that you will need when ordering. Any physical books or stationery will be delivered directly to your home address before your child begins the school year.

Please note that Compulsory Digital Resources are required for Year 7. These are bundled as a single item, and all parents must select this option when ordering. Iona College has worked with suppliers to secure educational pricing, and students will use these resources throughout the year. All digital resources will be activated and downloaded in class with their teachers when required.

# Year 7 Curriculum

## Learning at Iona College

At Iona College, we work to know each of our students as individuals and plan for differentiated success. Iona College is committed to providing students with rich experiences and projects and incorporates technology across the subject areas. Our curriculum allows students to experience both breadth and depth in their studies. The initial focus at Year 7 is on transition from the primary school to the secondary school setting. There is a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy throughout the curriculum and staff work to both support and enrich. Students undertake a broad range of subjects, including semester-long studies in Music, Information Technology, Design Technology (Wood) and Visual Art, as they begin to explore their personal skills, passions, values and character strengths and come to appreciate the joy and importance of lifelong learning.

## Intended Outcomes for Iona College Students

- Promote learning that is relevant, contemporary and collaborative.
- Enrich learning by encouraging creativity and innovation in teaching methodologies and student participation.
- Foster excellence by providing an interactive and engaging learning environment.
- Offer opportunities for students to pursue their passions.
- Develop independence in learning and critical thinking skills.
- Promote and educate in the ethical use of information technologies.
- Provide contemporary learning spaces that allow for flexible and innovative approaches to learning.
- Provide a safe environment for all staff and students whether in the classroom or online.

# Year 7 Curriculum

**All students in Year 7 study subjects from the following Learning Areas:**

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Health and Physical Education
- Humanities
- Languages
  - Indonesian
- The Arts
  - Visual Art
  - Music
- Technologies
  - Design and Technologies
  - Digital Technologies
- Wellbeing for Learning

The curriculum is designed for students to experience learning in all Learning Areas. Our timetable is based on a two-week cycle (10 days) and is structured into three 94-minute lessons per day.

The Arts Learning Area is divided into the Creative Arts and Performing Arts. In Year 7, students study Visual Arts and Music, whereas in Year 8, students study Visual Arts and Drama.

The Technologies Learning Area is divided into Digital Technologies and Design and Technologies. In Year 7, students study Design Technology (Wood) and Digital Technology, whereas in Year 8, students study Design Technology (Materials) and Food Technology.

# Core Subjects

## Religious Education

"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14

In Year 7 Religion, students explore the concept of 'belonging' and consider what it means to belong to various groups, with students identifying the rituals, symbols, language and celebrations associated with belonging. Students develop their connection to the Catholic Church through their school connection and consider the values of Catholic communities. Year 7s learn about the history of the Isle of Iona and the establishment of Iona College Geelong. They consider how they can put into action the values of leadership, compassion, courage and excellence shown by our school patrons, and learn about the person of Jesus with the challenge to act as he did, with justice, kindness and compassion. Using the Catholic Social Teaching principles, students focus on how organisations in our Geelong community respond to God's call to help the poor, respect human dignity and focus on our world's common good, and they reflect on how they can best showcase these principles in their own lives. Responding to the Pope's call to 'care for our common home' is also encouraged through a focus on the environment and consideration of the actions that can be taken to protect our world for future generations.

## English

During Year 7 English, students examine narrative structure and style through a range of texts and enhance their writing skills by planning, composing and editing their own narratives with specific purposes and audiences in mind. Students build upon their skills from prior learning related to using language persuasively and also work to develop their ability to analyse language devices and the effects of such devices upon audiences. New analytical skills are introduced to Year 7 students involving the analysis of literary elements, such as character, setting, plot, language and themes, in a variety of text types. Within such analytical units of work, students learn to respond to texts using formal written structures. Throughout the year, students enhance their speaking skills through involvement in discussion and the formal presentation of information to an audience. Consideration of purpose, audience and form is encouraged in all learning activities and students are exposed to a range of written and visual text types, having opportunities to work both creatively and analytically with texts. Throughout their studies, students will be explicitly exposed to the grammatical skills and knowledge appropriate to both their skill level and also the units of work at hand; developing their word power and confidence in the mechanics of English.

## Mathematics

Our Year 7 Mathematics program provides students with access to important mathematical ideas, knowledge and skills which they will draw on in their personal lives and in future mathematical studies. The program begins with an 'Inspirational Week of Maths', which allows students to develop and showcase their qualities of problem solving, perseverance and collaboration. The course incorporates the use of Maths Pathway: a program with an individualised approach to learning, tailoring mathematical tasks to each students' individual level and delivering a course designed just for them. It also provides detailed data on competency, effort and growth across the year.

Our Mathematics faculty values data analysis and explicit teaching, and we ensure that each Year 7 Term is centred around one or two strands as indicated in the Victorian Curriculum. These strands are Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Statistics and Probability. Key concepts and learnings are taught explicitly through our Iona developed ‘Mega Lessons’, in which teachers ensure curriculum is delivered in a variety of ways to the whole class. Throughout the Year 7 program, students will demonstrate their understanding and mathematical reasoning, together with efficient problem-solving skills. Our Year 7 program gives opportunities for support and extension and allows every student to celebrate personal growth.

## Science

The Year 7 Science curriculum focuses on the scientific method and introducing students to the skills necessary for working in a science laboratory. Throughout the year, students will complete a variety of experiments and build on their skills to make predictions, take measurements, analyse data and design investigations. A chemistry unit will include investigations of different types of mixtures and separation techniques. A physics unit will focus on forces and how the application of push, pull and twist forces creates changes in the motion of an object. A biology unit will focus on classification, which involves recognising features of living things and using these features to classify organisms into groups. Another focus will be ecosystems and the flow of energy through living systems.

## Health and Physical Education

The Year 7 Health and Physical Education curriculum develops skills to positively influence personal and others’ health and wellbeing. All students are encouraged to actively participate in physical activity throughout the ‘Health Benefits of Physical Activity’ unit. A ‘Mental Health and Wellbeing’ unit develops knowledge, understanding and skills to strengthen a sense of self, develop resilience and build positive healthy relationships. At Year 7, students will participate in a ‘Puberty and Positive Relationships’ unit. Iona students contribute to building healthy, safe and active communities and participate in an ‘Eat Well, Live Well’ unit to help develop lifelong healthy eating habits.

Integral to Health and Physical Education is the acquisition of movement skills, concepts and strategies to enable students to confidently, competently and creatively participate in a range of physical activities. Throughout the year, students participate in a variety of fitness tests and then relate them to the relevant fitness components. As a foundation for lifelong physical activity participation, students develop proficiency in movement skills through exposure to a variety of sports, physical activities and movement concepts based on a ‘Game Sense’ approach, alongside the concept of ‘Playing the Game and being a Good Sport’. Throughout the year, students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of Invasion Games, Striking and Fielding Games, Net/Wall Games and Target Games, along with an Indigenous Cultural Games Unit.

## Humanities

The Year 7 Humanities program incorporates Geography, History and Civics & Citizenship. Units examined in Geography include 'Water in Our World' and 'Place & Liveability'. Students consider the lifestyle factors that draw people to reside in a certain space and conduct field work uncovering where Geelong's water supply comes from. The History component spans the time period of 60,000BCE to 650AD, with a particular emphasis on 'Ancient Australia' and 'Ancient Greece'. Civics & Citizenship unpacks 'Government and Democracy', and it includes the responsibilities and freedoms of citizens and how citizens participate in Australia's democracy. Throughout the year, students complete a range of tasks to develop their skills in research, analysis, presentation and teamwork.

## Indonesian

Through a focus on storytelling and other communicative language activities, students in Year 7 Indonesian explore high-frequency Indonesian language as well as the culture of one of our closest neighbours. Students will have the opportunity to put their acquired language to use in creating their own original written texts. They will use Indonesian to interact and exchange ideas, experiences and interests with their teacher and peers. Furthermore, students will give opinions, make comparisons and state preferences to express themselves and learn from others. By the end of Year 7, students will be conversationally fluent in Indonesian and have gained a deep appreciation of the way of life of communities across Indonesia. Students will also engage with online platforms such as Education Perfect, Blooket and GimKit.

## Wellbeing for Learning

Students build on their inquiry, critical thinking, collaboration and time management skills. Students undertake a long-term, student-driven inquiry project of a topic of their choice. This passion project will focus on either a local or global context and generate new insights through in-depth investigation. Students will communicate their ideas to their peers and reflect on their learning.

Year 7 students will also focus on transition to secondary school with the development of Year 7 specific skills, such as time management and IT administration. Students will develop an understanding of and will practice using the concept of the learning pit, investigate mindsets and neuroplasticity and focus on a positive attitude towards learning. As part of the program, students will begin their career and pathway journey. This will entail the discovery of their own character strengths, talents and values. Students will begin the process of developing a career portfolio by undertaking an inquiry process that focuses on ideas such as 'what is work?' and transferable skills using the Careers Tools platform. Students will learn about the importance of SMART goals as part of their pathways journey and will build the skills necessary to set their own SMART goals.

# Semester Based Subjects

## Design Technology (Wood)

Year 7 Design Technology students create designs and solutions for a range of technology tasks based on an evaluation of needs or opportunities. They develop a success criteria, including safety and sustainability considerations, and use these to judge the suitability of ideas, solutions and processes. They create and adapt design ideas, make considered decisions and communicate to different audiences using technical terms and a range of technologies and graphical representation techniques. Students apply project management skills to documents and use project plans to manage production processes. They independently and safely produce effective design solutions for specific purposes.

## Information Technology

Information Technology at Year 7 consists of learning the main software programs of Microsoft. This enables students to fully utilise their laptop within the curriculum of the College. Students engage their problem-solving capabilities with the introduction of Microsoft Teams and work independently to develop IT skills. Students are introduced to Paint 3D, allowing them to create layered 2D masterpieces or 3D models that they can play with from all angles. Students undertake a cyber safety unit covering online safety and strategies for students to use when encountering an unsafe digital environment.

## Music

In Year 7 Music, students will explore the basics of aural music language using a Kodaly pedagogy. This will be coupled with learning to understand written elements of music and its associated technical language. Students will explore the language of music through activities such as games, singing and body movement. They will apply the newly acquired knowledge of music language to electronic music production using Sound Trap. In this platform, they will learn how to compose using the loop library, how to edit and balance an overall composition, and how to download completed compositions or individual tracks. Students will also learn to play the guitar. This will include learning to form basic chords, basic playing techniques and ensemble techniques. Ensemble techniques are further explored playing tuned percussion.

## Visual Art

In Year 7 Visual Art, students explore the Elements and Principles of Design in Art. This exploration informs a series of mini art tasks which involve students learning about and refining techniques across a range of art forms. Students work with and develop skills in using acrylic and water colour paint, drawing, dry point etching, lino cutting and printing. These artistic processes are progressively documented in their Visual Diary. The knowledge, understanding and skills developed through these artistic processes inform a final artwork. An understanding and appreciation of art terminology and visual literacy will also be incorporated into learning.

# Student Travel

## School Bus Travel Information

Iona College provides students with several options to access transport services to and from school:

- Iona College Chartered Bus Service – for use by Iona College students only
- Regional Country Bus Service – a (free) State Government bus service linking remote living students to the Iona College Chartered Bus Service
- Public Bus/Train Service – linking students with access to public transport services to the Iona College Chartered Bus Service

Below you will find further information regarding these services and links to various application forms that you may need to complete.

The cost of transport and eligibility for Conveyance Allowance is determined by a student's place of residence. The Iona College Chartered Bus Service is a fixed cost amount regardless of where a student resides and how often the service is used.

Due to ongoing capacity issues, students are only permitted to travel on their allocated Iona College chartered bus. Ad hoc travel on other Iona College chartered buses (eg. for out-of-school-hours sport, employment or socializing) is not allowed. Responsibility to transport students to after school activities / commitments rests with parents / carers.

## Student Travel Behaviour

Bus safety is very important to us and is a shared responsibility. In the interest of safety for students, the driver and members of the public, safety rules must always be followed whilst travelling on Iona College Chartered Bus Services and McHarry's Buslines services.

Students and families are required to complete an Iona College 'Code of Conduct' form prior to commencing travel on the Iona College Chartered Bus Service.

To ensure the safety and comfort of all, students behaving poorly, dangerously and/or disrespectfully, may be excluded from using this service at the discretion of the College delegate.

# Conveyance Allowance

Conveyance Allowance is a form of financial assistance for parents/carers to transport children to and from school. Subject to the below eligibility criteria, Conveyance Allowance is available to students travelling either by private car, public train/bus, private bus or a combination thereof.

## Eligibility Criteria:

- Student resides 4.8km or further from their school
- Student must be attending their nearest co-educational Catholic secondary college. Where a student is not attending their nearest co-educational Catholic secondary college (eg. St Ignatius, Drysdale), they will only be eligible if they had applied for enrolment at their nearest school and then obtained a letter from that school stating that an enrolment place was not available.

Once you have checked that you are eligible for Conveyance Allowance, please see the following information for instructions specific to the Conveyance Allowance application form that you will need to complete and submit to us for your new student(s).

## Bus Charges and Processing of Conveyance Allowance Claim Amounts

As the annual expected (private bus) conveyance allowance claim amounts are already factored into our (heavily subsidized) annual bus charges to parents/carers, for ease of administration, the 'private bus' claim amounts paid by the Department of Education are retained by Iona College – i.e. they are not deducted off parents/carers fee accounts.

Parents/carers who do not return a completed and signed Conveyance Allowance form to us will therefore have the (private bus) Claim Amount charged back to their fee account.

Please Note: A new Conveyance Allowance application form for existing Iona College students is only required if there is a change to your residential address and you continue to meet the above Eligibility Criteria.

*For students travelling from areas such as Little River, some areas of Lara, Leopold, Ocean Grove, Queenscliff, Drysdale/Clifton Springs, Curlewis and some areas of Barwon Heads who are not attending their nearest co-educational Catholic secondary college (eg. St Ignatius, Drysdale or Mackillop College, Werribee), please refer to the above second Eligibility Criteria point.*

## What Type of Conveyance Allowance Application Form To Complete

Iona College Private Bus Travel Conveyance Allowance Form – required to be completed for all NEW students (and existing students who have changed address) who meet the above Eligibility Criteria and who travel to school by the Iona College (private) bus only.

Multi-mode Travel Conveyance Allowance Form – required to be completed for all NEW students (and existing students who have changed address) who meet the above Eligibility Criteria and who travel by either the (free) regional/country bus service, public school bus\*, public bus or train\*, or by private vehicle to connect with the Iona College (private) bus. NB: Both legs of the journey to/from school must be 4.8kms or greater.

Private Car Travel Conveyance Allowance Form - required to be completed for all NEW students (and existing students who have changed address) who meet the above Eligibility Criteria and who travel to College by private car only.

*\* From January 1, 2026, the State Government is making public transport free for all students under 18 through the introduction of a new 'Myki Youth Pass'. Parents/carers will therefore no longer need to submit a copy of the receipt for the purchase of a Regional Student (half-yearly or yearly) Myki Pass to Iona College for claiming and reimbursement through the Conveyance Allowance process whilst their young one(s) remain under the age of 18.*

## Iona College Chartered Bus Service

Iona College Chartered Buses service several locations around Geelong, the Bellarine Peninsula and Surfcoast areas, and also link up with students travelling into Geelong by train, public bus, or the Regional Country Bus Service.

These chartered buses are for private use by Iona College students only and regular drivers will recognise our students by their college uniform.

Students will receive an Iona College (PTV) School Student ID card at the start of Term 1 and are required to tap on and tap off with it when boarding and exiting Iona College chartered buses, as this then feeds into the BusMinder reporting system. Prior to receiving their Student ID card, students can tap on/off their bus through the driver's tablet.

BusMinder is an innovative bus monitoring system that has been installed and allows the College to track where our (chartered) buses are located in real time and who is on the bus. Parents are also able to view where their child's allocated bus is and when and where their child taps on and off via the BusMinder parent app. Parents/carers seeking to register for BusMinder should submit their request by email to [conveyance@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:conveyance@iona.vic.edu.au).

## Regional Country Bus Service

The Regional Bus Coordinator is based at Matthew Flinders Girls Secondary College.

Students travelling from the below (country) locations are required to complete and submit to Iona College an Application for Permission to Travel form to access this service. Submitted forms are then passed onto the Regional Bus Coordinator for assessment - application forms were issued to parents/carers of known (2026) country bus service students in Aug/Sept 2025.

Assessment is undertaken in line with certain eligibility criteria and priority is given to public school students, so approval is not guaranteed. The Regional Bus Coordinator will communicate the outcome of their assessment direct to parents/carers, and if the student is approved for travel, then provide parents/carers with the student's allocated stop point and departure / arrival times. As the Regional Country Bus Service is free, bus passes are not issued for this travel.

Applications are required for students living in – Aireys Inlet, Anakie, Anglesea, Bambra, Bannockburn, Barrabool, Batesford, Bellbrae, Bells Beach, Buckley, Ceres, Deans Marsh, Fairhaven, Freshwater Creek, Gheringhap, Gnarwarre, Inverleigh, Lethbridge, Little River, Lorne, Maude, Meredith, Modewarre, Moorabool, Moriac, Mt Moriac, Ombersley, Paraparap, Shelford, She Oaks, Stonehaven, Teesdale, Wensleydale, Winchelsea, Wingeel & Wurdiboluc.

## Public Bus/Train Service

McHarry's Buslines and V/Line operate transport services that connect through to several Iona College Chartered Bus Services.

Students travelling on a public bus or train will need to purchase a Myki Youth Pass. Please take your child's Iona College (PTV) School Student ID to either Lara, Geelong or Marshall station to purchase your young ones Myki Youth Pass.

For information regarding regional train and bus services please refer to McHarry's Buslines website or V/Line website

*Please note: We recommend that train travelers download the V/Line App for service announcements and cancellations.*

## Change of Address

If you are planning to change (or have changed) your residential address since enrolling your person/s, please email [conveyance@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:conveyance@iona.vic.edu.au) to discuss alternative Iona College Chartered Bus Service routes and/or provide your new address (if known). A new Conveyance Allowance Application Form will be emailed to you, if applicable.

## Important Documents

[Iona College School Bus Travel Information](#)

[Regional School Bus Program Eligibility Guide](#)

[Regional Country Bus Service Application Form](#)

[Multi-mode Conveyance Allowance Application Form](#)

[Private Bus Travel only Conveyance Allowance Application Form](#)

[Iona College Bus Code of Conduct](#)

[Private Car Travel Conveyance Allowance Form](#)

## Helpful Contacts

Mr. Carl Jones  
Transport Coordinator  
Phone: (03) 5229 0004 (then Option 2)  
Email: [conveyance@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:conveyance@iona.vic.edu.au)

McHarry's Buslines  
Phone: (03) 5223 2111  
[visit website \(school bus menu\)](#).

# Fees

The compulsory fee per student in 2025 is \$6,762 per year (this fee includes all tuition fees, curriculum levies, excursions, camps and laptop device hire).

Bus Fee (for students catching a designated Iona College Geelong bus) – \$627 (Tier 1) / \$537 (Tier 2).

Fees for the 2026 school year are likely to be declared by the end of the 2025 calendar year.

## Discounts

- 10% Sibling Discount on all (above) fees for all students (2 students) – 10%
- 20% Sibling Discount on all (above) fees for all students (3 students) – 20%
- Financial Assistance- Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) – see below.

## Invoices/Statements

Annual school fees, bus charges and any sibling discounts are raised in February of each year and appear on our Term 1 invoice/statement - issued by email to parents/carers by the end of February. Additional invoices/statements are issued by the College early in each subsequent Term and will include any CSEF discount (see below), fees for private music lessons and other additional specialist subjects (if applicable), and any payments that have been made to us since the issuing of the previous invoice/statement.

## Payment Options

Payment option details are shown at the bottom of our invoices/statements and consists of:

- BPay; and
- Direct Debit – i.e., where the College is authorized to deduct a set payment amount from a nominated bank account at either Fortnightly or Monthly intervals through to 30 November each year. An email attaching the Direct Debit Authority form and confirming deduction commencement dates and the number of deductions scheduled for the year will be issued separately to (and within a day of) our Term 1 fee invoice/statement email to families. Deduction amounts can be calculated by referring to the balance shown on our Term 1 fee invoice/statement and dividing it by the number of scheduled fortnightly or monthly deductions.

NB: EFT is not a provided fee payment option.

As per the Education Agreement, unless a ‘school approved arrangement’\* is in place, 60% of fees are required to be paid by the end of Term 1, a further 30% by the end of Term 2, and the final 10% by the end of Term 3.

\* A ‘school approved arrangement’ will automatically be considered to be in place where (by March 31) parents/carers either establish a Direct Debit or set-up weekly, fortnightly or monthly BPAY payments that will result in the full balance being paid by November 30.

## Financial Hardship

Families enduring financial hardship and /or expecting to experience substantial delay in paying the school fees are strongly encouraged to contact the College on (03) 5229-0004 to discuss alternative measures and/or the possible availability of financial assistance. All information disclosed is strictly confidential.

## Other Financial Assistance - Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF)

Families who hold a valid means-tested concession card (eg. Health Care, Pensioner Concession Card), or Veterans' Affairs Gold Card, or who are temporary foster parents of school-aged children are eligible to apply. All new eligible families will need to submit an application form together with a copy of their (valid) concession card. Temporary foster parents/carers will need to provide a letter from the appropriate Government department confirming that the student is in their care.

The annual CSEF amount for secondary school students is \$400. If your application is successful, a credit of \$400 will be put against your school fee account and an additional \$400 will also be provided by the College. Families can list more than one student in one application if they are attending the same school.

The payment will be made directly to the school and will be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student. Applications normally close in June each year, with credits then applied in time to appear on our term 3 fee statement to families.



# Canteen

The College canteen provides students access to a variety of food options Monday to Friday during recess and lunch. The College canteen has a selection of food offerings which change day to day and caters to many dietary requirements.

Parents/carers will receive a unique email in order to access IonaOnline (the Canteen portal) before the end of December 2025. This email will contain a link to IonaOnline - an email address and password will be required to access this online store. This online store is very user friendly and intuitive.

We recommend parents/carers submit lunch orders the evening before. The cut off to make lunch orders for the same day is 9:30 am. Counter service is available during recess and lunch but limited items are available. To avoid long queues at the canteen, we strongly advise all students and families to order their lunch online via our the Canteen Portal.

IonaOnline also provides students a means to purchase replacement items such as ID cards, Laptop chargers and miscellaneous school items.



# ICT

Each Year 7 student is provided a laptop by the College during their first day with a brief introduction session. The cost of the laptop is included in the College fees. The laptop remains the property of the College and it is the responsibility of the student to ensure the laptop is protected from damage as stipulated in the ICT agreement which is signed by all families prior to commencement at the College.

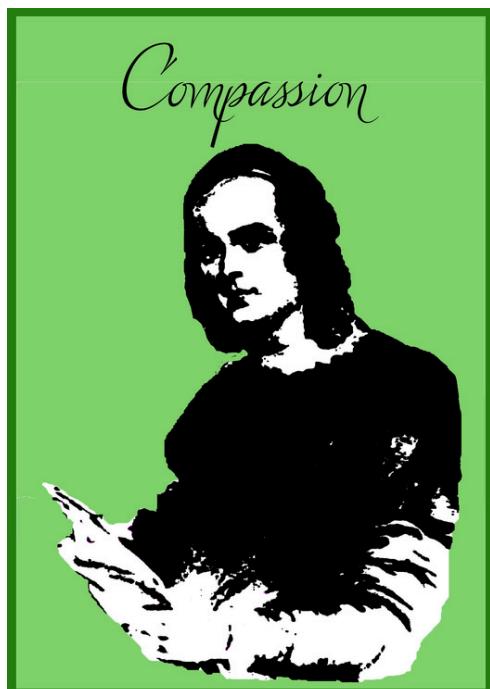
The College provided laptop includes three years warranty and accidental damage protection insurance for up to three claims. The cost per insurance claim is \$130 which will be automatically added to the family account. The College reserves the right to repair the device at any time damage is noticed. Families will be notified of any repairs or warranty claims via PAM and their young person will be given a loan laptop to use until the repair is completed.

Students are welcome to visit the ICT service desk located in the Resource Centre between the hours of 8 am – 4 pm.

# College Houses

There are four houses at Iona. Each house is associated with a core value of Iona. Chisholm (green), MacKillop (blue), Glowrey (yellow) and Francis (red) are all names after significant role models. All students will be assigned to a house during their first week at school. Their assigned house will appear on their profile on Simon. Students are encouraged to dress in their house colour on key school events.

## Chisholm



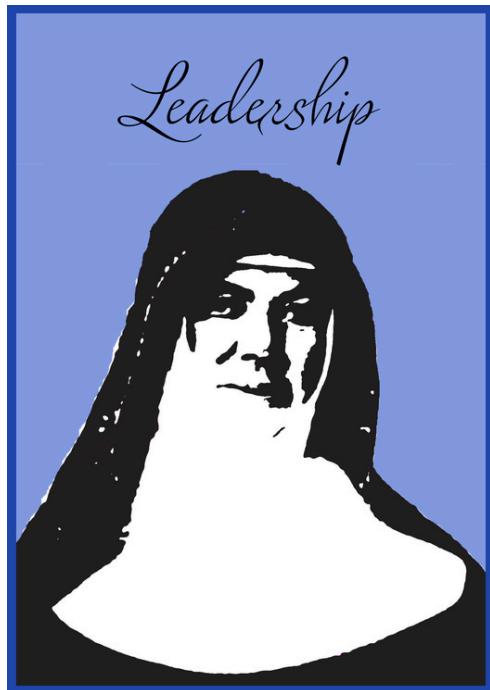
Patron: Caroline Chisholm (1808-1877)

Representing: Compassion

Colour: Green - The colour of nature. Symbolizing growth, harmony, freshness, and fertility. Green has strong emotional correspondence with safety and great healing power.

"Caroline Chisholm was a member of the Roman Catholic Church, with a tolerance so wide, and her love of humanity so strong she gave of her best to all who asked her help no matter to what class or creed they belonged."

## MacKillop



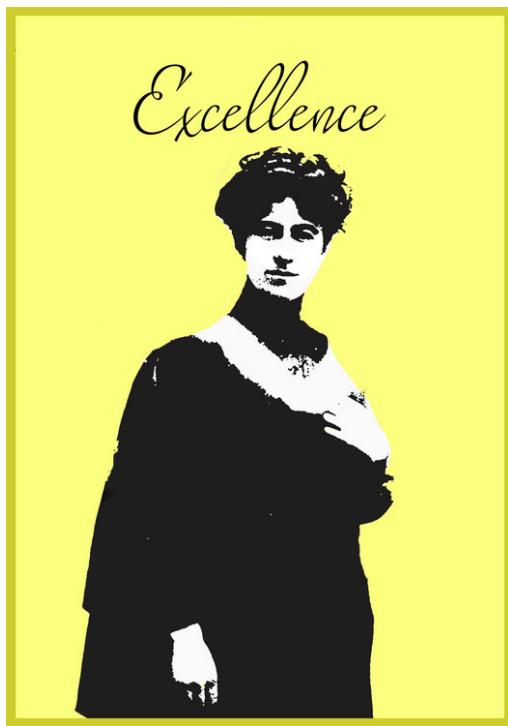
Patron: Sr Mary MacKillop (1842-1909)

Representing: Leadership

Colour: Blue - The colour of the sky and sea. Often associated with depth and stability. Symbolizes trust, loyalty, wisdom, confidence, intelligence, faith, truth, and heaven.

"Mary MacKillop was a woman truly ahead of her time, always pragmatic and down to earth. She wasn't afraid to question authority when justice and charity required it." The Catholic Leader, 2009.

## Glowrey



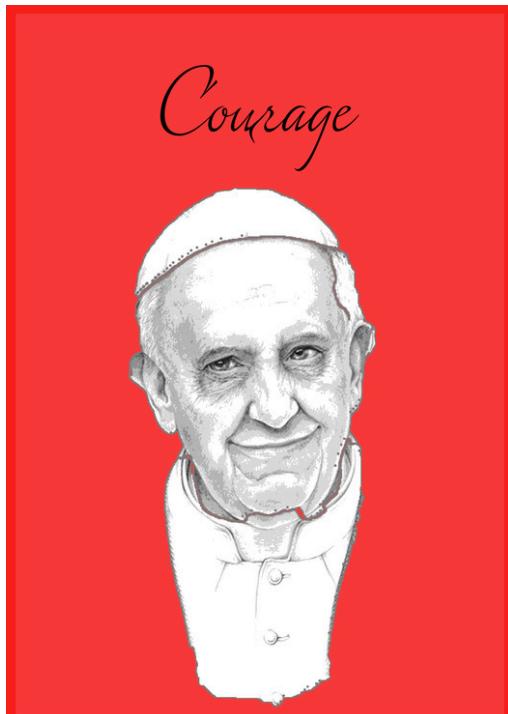
Patron: Sr Mary Glowrey (1887-1957)

Representing: Excellence

Colour: Yellow - The colour of sunshine. Associated with joy, happiness, intellect, and energy. Produces a warming effect, arouses cheerfulness, stimulates mental activity, and generates muscle energy.

"Inspired by the church's teachings on social justice, Mary sought to change society not just through prayer but action. Her profound faith, compassion for others and brilliant intellect, juxtaposed with a humble and shy nature, led her to push the boundaries of the roles that women could play in society."

## Francis



Patron: Pope Francis (1936 - 2025 )

Representing: Courage

Colour: Red –The colour of fire and blood, so associated with energy, war, danger, strength, power, determination as well as passion, desire, and love. In heraldry, red is used to indicate courage.

"We must dare to be different, to point to ideals other than those of this world, testifying to the beauty of generosity, service, purity, perseverance, forgiveness, fidelity to our personal vocation, prayer, the pursuit of justice and the common good, love for the poor, and social friendship." Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit* (Christ is Alive), A letter to Young People, 2019.

# Locks & Lockers

During the first week, every student will be assigned a personal locker that will be used for the entire year.

**Locking Your Locker:** To keep belongings secure, students must use the school-provided locks to secure their lockers. Each student will be given a lock during their first week.

**Lock Cost:** The cost of the provided lock is \$30. This cost of this lock will be added to the parent/carers fees. The lock, a Resettable Code Locker Padlock Atlas LG920, is known for its top-notch security and user-friendly design.

**Lock Usage Instructions:** Instructions for using the lock [can be found online here](#). We recommend that students and parents take a look at these instructions to become comfortable with the process.

Students are responsible for keeping their lockers securely locked at all times.



# Inclusive Education

At Iona College, we strive to cater for all individuals. Our welcoming, inclusive environment allows all students to learn to ensure they feel safe and nurtured.

The Deputy Principal Wellbeing, Ms Kylie Power, along with Mrs Justine Fitzpatrick, the Head of NCCD and Ms Jacqui Fenwick, Pedagogy and Curriculum Instructional Leader - Inclusive Education are responsible for the Inclusive Education Team at the College. The team leads the NCCD program (Nationally Consistent Collection of Data). Inclusive Education Managers are appointed at each year level, these teachers support NCCD students and parents by conducting PSGs (Program Support Group Meetings) and managing the day to day needs of students.

We support individuals to achieve their best by developing learning programs and experiences which recognise diverse needs. We comply with the NCCD guidelines and develop Personalised Learning Programs (PLPs) for those students who require adjustments. Teaching and support staff have regular parental contact, including PSG meetings, student progress meetings and SIMON/PAM updates. Through information provided by families, primary schools, external professionals, internal observation, and testing processes, we aim to enhance the school experience for all students.

Teachers are supported by a team of Learning Support Officers (LSOs) coordinated by Ms Deb Hartup, the Learning Support Co-ordinator, who assist teachers to meet the needs of all students.

Email contact can be made via: [inclusiveeducation@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:inclusiveeducation@iona.vic.edu.au)

# Wellbeing

At Iona College, we take pride in our holistic approach to the wellbeing of both staff and students. We believe that student wellbeing and learning are shared responsibilities between families and the College. To support this, we collect weekly real-time data from our students and staff, promoting and demonstrating help-seeking behaviours. This data collection is facilitated through the LineWize Pulse Wellbeing check-in, which is based on the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) wellbeing framework for young people.

The Pulse check-in questions help us understand the lives of our young people by conceptualizing wellbeing across six interconnected domains: Valued and Safe, Health, Material Basics, Learning, Participating, and Positive Sense of Identity and Culture. This comprehensive approach helps Iona students reach their full potential, regardless of gender, ability, ethnicity, race, religion, or socioeconomic status.

Wellbeing is defined as a person's state of happiness and health. Prioritising wellbeing is essential for our community to thrive. Our Wellbeing curriculum is designed to support teachers and enhance their knowledge and experience in delivering social-emotional learning (SEL), Mindfulness, Respectful Relationships and Positive Education. Relationships are at the core of our approach. Every interaction with students counts, and our curriculum is not a replacement for the implicit social-emotional learning that happens daily through teaching and other activities.

The Wellbeing curriculum itself is explicit and is implemented strategically during timetabled classes. Each classroom is unique, and the relationship and rapport each teacher has with their students are the best social-emotional learning available. Consequently, lessons are adapted and customised to meet the needs of our students. The Wellbeing lessons, are taught in Learning to Learn and Wellbeing classes, are evidence-based and adapted from the Institute of Positive Education (PEEC), Here's a Thought curriculum (HAT), Berry Street Trauma-Informed Practice, The Resilience Project (GEM), SEL programs underpinning Respectful Relationships, and other well-researched, evidence-based learning programs. This curriculum is a part of our comprehensive support for students at Iona College.

**“Iona staff all have a collective responsibility to teach our students the skills and strategies for Wellbeing”**

# Wellbeing



## IONA WELLBEING LINEWIZE PULSE

The following video provides insight into Iona College's approach to wellbeing via the use of the LineWize Pulse and how our students have responded to this approach.



We take pride in our holistic approach to the wellbeing of both staff and students. We believe that student wellbeing and learning are shared responsibilities between families and the College. To support this, we collect weekly real-time data from our students and staff, promoting and demonstrating help-seeking behaviours. This data collection is facilitated through the LineWize Pulse Wellbeing check-in, which is based on the ARACY wellbeing framework for young people.

The Pulse check-in questions help us understand the lives of our young people by conceptualizing wellbeing across six interconnected domains: Valued and Safe, Health, Material Basics, Learning, Participating, and Positive Sense of Identity and Culture.

# Wellbeing

## Internet Safety at Home – a Tool For Our Parents - Qustodio



This year we introduced Qustodio, a powerful digital safety tool that supports families in managing and protecting their young person's online activity outside of school hours. As part of our ongoing commitment to child safety and wellbeing, Iona College is offering access to Qustodio for families who wish to use it.

Qustodio is a trusted parental control app that provides visibility and guidance over your young person's online presence. It works across devices to help you:

- Monitor and set limits on screen time
- Filter inappropriate content through website filtering
- Track app usage with clear activity reports
- Establish healthy boundaries and encourage positive digital habits
- Promote responsible online behaviour
- Gain peace of mind knowing your young person is safe online
- Access insights that support open conversations about online safety
- Manage app and game access
- Track location in real time
- Receive alerts for concerning activity

This is an **opt-in** service provided by Iona College. Families who choose to participate will be able to apply controls and monitoring to both the College-provided device and one additional personal device of their choice.

# Child Safety

Iona College Geelong is a child safe school committed to the safety, wellbeing and inclusion of all children and young people.

At Iona, we believe that the abuse and exploitation of children is unacceptable and that it can and should be prevented. By creating a child safe community, we act to prevent, reduce, and minimise child abuse and exploitation in all their forms. Our programs and procedures are informed by a fundamental belief that children have the right to physical and psychological safety. The United Nation's 'best interest of the child' principle inspires all our work to prevent child abuse and exploitation. We all have a moral duty of care to ensure children are safe from harm. We must act now to make child abuse a thing of the past.

Iona College Geelong has zero tolerance for child abuse and is committed to the protection of all children from all forms of child abuse.

The Child Protection Program at Iona is made up of work systems, practices, policies and procedures designed to maintain a child safe environment and to embed an organisational culture of child safety within the College community. The Program deals specifically with child protection issues and is designed to ensure compliance with the 11 Victorian Child Safe Standards and related child protection laws. Broader child safety issues arising from our common law duty of care are dealt with through our Student Duty of Care Program.

## Child Safe Principles

The College's commitment to child safety is based on the following overarching principles that guide the development and regular review of our work systems, practices, policies and procedures to protect children from abuse.

All children have the right to be safe.

1. The welfare and best interests of the child is paramount.
2. The views of the child and a child's privacy must be respected.
3. Clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children are established in our Child Safety Code of Conduct.
4. The safety of children is dependent upon the existence of a child safe culture.
5. Child safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within our College community.
6. Procedures are in place to screen all staff, direct contact volunteers, third party contractors and external education providers who have direct contact with children.
7. Child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility.
8. Child protection training is mandatory for all Canonical Administrators, Advisory Board members, staff and Direct Contact Volunteers.
9. Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse are simple and accessible for all members of the College community.
10. Children from culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds have the right to special care and support including those who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
11. Children who have any kind of disability have the right to special care and support.

# Child Protection Officers

Iona College has appointed the following staff members as our College Child Protection Officers.

They are available to answer any questions that you may have with respect to our Child Protection Policy and the Child Protection Program. If you have any concerns that a student may be experiencing any form of abuse, you should immediately raise them with one of the Child Protection Officers below. If the student is in immediate danger the Police should be called on 000.



**Ms Kylie Power**

Deputy Principal  
Wellbeing

**Mrs Melissa Gould**

Deputy Principal  
Learning

**Mrs Justine Fitzpatrick**

Head of NCCD

**Mr Nathan Pisani**

Direct of Culture  
and Strategy  
Wellbeing



# Student Support Services

At Iona College, the wellbeing of our students and staff is our central focus. We believe that students learn and interact best when their mental health needs are being met. Our student support staff, a team of highly qualified social workers and counsellors, employ a confidential and holistic approach to working with adolescents.

## What We Offer:

- Short to Medium-Term Counselling: Personalised support to help students manage their challenges.
- Referral and collaboration with External Services: Connecting students with additional resources and specialised support.
- Therapeutic Interventions: Evidence-based techniques to promote mental health and wellbeing.
- Group Work: Including programs such as Body Bop, Tuning Into Teens and Social Stencil Program.
- Support in School Transitions: Assisting students in navigating changes within the school environment.
- Support for Parents/Carers and Families: Providing guidance and resources for families.
- Collaboration with Teachers and School Staff: Ensuring a unified approach to student wellbeing.

Our student support space is a welcoming environment for all students and staff, featuring four separate counselling and meeting rooms designed to be warm and safe.

Aligned with Iona's core values, the Student Support team prides itself on providing care, connection, and a calm approach, helping students reach their full potential.





# College Nurse

The role of the College Nurse is to support students and staff in the promotion of:

- Healthy lifestyle habits.
- Positive choices and proactivity with regards to self-awareness and health management.
- General wellbeing and vitality.

The College Nurse provides:

- Day-to-day management of Student Health and First Aid student self-management support.
- Emergency First Aid and chronic health management.
- Facilitation of the Immunisation Program provided by Barwon Health, as part of the free National Immunisation Program.
- Chronic health management for conditions such as anaphylaxis, chronic allergies, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, or a medical condition that may impact your young person's health and learning.
- Facilitation of Medical management on College Camps.

The health and wellbeing of our students is a priority, and it is our legal responsibility to have mandatory health management plans in place at the start of each year for students who need support.

## Medications at School

A Medication Authority Form will need to be completed and signed by a parent for over-the-counter medication to be administered at school, on a short-term basis (1-2 days) - ie. short term administration is for temporary conditions such as a headache, dental pain, hay fever etc. This authorisation does not extend to prescription medication, or ongoing use of over-the-counter medications. In these circumstances, a medical practitioner must complete and sign the Medication Authority Form which is available for download in PAM.

Please note prescription medication and ongoing over the counter medication can only be authorised by an AHPRA registered medical/health practitioner. Over the counter medications from approved list require guardian signature.

## **High Risk Medical Conditions**

Please provide medical action plans (updated annually) for students diagnosed with Asthma, Allergy/Anaphylaxis, Diabetes and Epilepsy. These can be uploaded via PAM/SIMON Medical.

## **Injuries Outside of School**

If your student has experienced any injuries outside school and you think it may impact school - could you, please complete Student Injury Notification Form and email to the College Nurse. This form is also available on PAM.

Please don't hesitate to contact the College Nurse if your young person has a medical condition so we can best support your young person - Kate Every [medical@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:medical@iona.vic.edu.au)



# The Francis Centre

The Iona College Francis Centre, launched in 2023, is the home of the College's IT Department and Library. Students can visit the Francis Centre to receive IT assistance when they are having issues with their device or require help with anything else IT related.

Our Library is growing every week to support teaching and learning at the College and to promote reading for leisure.

We provide various resources via the Library's online portal including our online catalogue, EBSCO research database, ePlatform eBook app, the Age newspaper, ClickView educational video service, online reference generator and more. We hold Library introduction sessions with every year 7 class at the start of the year and are open to students during break times for quiet study, reading and homework.

Students can borrow books for up to four weeks and eBooks for 2 weeks with renewal options available. English and Literacy classes regularly come to the Francis Centre to read and borrow new books.

Our Francis Centre staff work with Geelong Regional Library Children's and Youth librarians to promote the Geelong Regional Library services to our students and assist those who want to join so that they can access and enjoy the amazing resources that the GRLC provide.

In the Francis Centre we celebrate our term themes, college events, student achievements and significant days with displays and activities. We celebrate Book Week each August with staff and student competitions, activities, displays and author visits.

Our fiction and non-fiction collections are growing constantly, guided by our library staff, with input from other staff members and students, so that we provide books that are age and content appropriate titles that our students want to read. Time and again research has shown us that reading for leisure benefits our young people by building concentration, improving memory, teaching about the wider world, developing empathy, expanding vocabulary, boosting imaginative and critical thinking and building positive self-image which all leads to better performance in school and a happier, more fulfilled person.

# Iona Uniform Explained

Iona College's approach to uniform is contemporary and dynamic where students are empowered to make choices about their attire, reflecting their individuality and comfort whilst fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. Our uniform policy encourages students to select their daily uniform, promoting freedom of expression and encouraging movement throughout the school day. The exception to this rule is on important events (as directed by the College), students must wear their 'complete formal' uniform ensuring a respectful and cohesive atmosphere befitting the occasion.

We designate our uniform options as 'formal' and 'sport' uniforms, avoiding the traditional 'summer' and 'winter' labels. Students have the agency to choose their daily uniform from this selection. While they are free to decide between the formal and sport uniforms on any given day, there are occasions when specific attire is compulsory. For instance, during events like our Opening School Mass, all students are expected to don the 'formal' uniform. Conversely for scheduled Physical Education classes the 'sport' uniform is required. All students must maintain both sets of uniform to ensure readiness for any occasion.

A selection of uniform items are available to purchase through IonaOnline (the Canteen portal), once purchased they can then be collected from Main reception.

PSW		GEELONG STORE PROPERTY OF PSW. Copyright 2024						IONA COLLEGE GEELONG CURRENT UNIFORM STORYBOARD - AUG 2024		IONA COLLEGE GEELONG
SUMMER	1101895 Short Sleeve Shirt	1102100 Short Sleeve Blouse	1118533 Summer Dress	1111927 Tailored Shorts	1113040 Flat Front Flexiwaist Shorts					
WINTER	1101895 Unisex Twill Blazer	1102104 L/S Shirt	1102105 L/S Blouse	1119359 L/S Polo	1105100 Wool Blend Jumper	1118372 Puffa Jacket, Regal	1114040 Flat Front Flexiwaist Trousers	1116547 Calf Length Pleat Skirt	1111991 Ladies Tailored Pants	
SPORTS	1118444 Bonded Jackets	1102748 Rugby Jumper	1118463 Mesh Polo	1119359 Rugby Jumper	1110737 Zip Cuff Track-pants	11167400 Double Piping Track pants	1116129 Tracks	1111571 Stretch Microfibre Ladies Shorts	1111569 Stretch Microfibre Shorts Unisex	11167996 Girl's Lined Short
ACCESSORIES	1100353 Lab Coat	1116524 Stripe Tie	8343200 College Backpack 40 L	8343180 Senior Backpack With Back Support	8300400 Havasak	1104219 Beanie	1101919 Baseball Cap	2500519 Sports Socks with Stripes	2513000 Tights Grey	2513082 Crew Socks - 2 Pack

# Formal Uniform



## Option One

- Short sleeve lona shirt worn with formal shorts or
- Short or long sleeve lona shirt worn with trousers
- College grey crew socks
- Leather lace up or T-bar school shoes
- College tie
- College blazer
- College jumper (optional)



## Option Two

- Short or long sleeve blouse
- Pleat skirt (knee length)
- Grey Tights
- Leather lace up or T-bar school shoes
- College tie
- College blazer
- College jumper (optional)



## Option Three

- College dress
- Grey tights or College grey crew socks
- Leather lace up or T-bar school shoes
- College blazer
- College jumper (optional)



## Requirement

All students must possess a set of formal uniform, which includes the College blazer.

### Blazer Usage

- There is no obligation for students to wear the blazer to and from school, however the blazer must be worn as the outer garment for formal school occasions.

### Optional Items

- Whilst not mandatory, it's recommended that students acquire a college wool blend jumper for added warmth. This jumper is considered part of the formal uniform.
- Students are permitted to wear the College 'puffa' jacket over the formal uniform, but not over the blazer during formal occasions.

### Tie

- It is preferred that the tie be worn with a long-sleeved shirt/pants or skirt combination. It is compulsory on designated formal days with both the long and short-sleeved combinations. On non designated formal days, students opting for the short-sleeved shirt are exempt from wearing the tie.

### Socks and Tights

- School uniform socks, specifically the College grey crew socks or tights, must be worn as appropriate with the formal uniform.

### Shirt and Pants Combination

- Please note the matching of the short-sleeved shirt with shorts and the long-sleeved shirt with trousers is compulsory. For formal occasions, when a tie is worn, both short and long-sleeve shirts must be tucked in. However, the short-sleeve shirt does not need to be tucked in when worn with shorts, without a tie or blazer.

### Dress and Skirt Combination

- Students have the choice of wearing the dress or a short-sleeved blouse / skirts combination, or they can opt for a long-sleeved shirt with tailored pants or a knee pleat skirt. Dresses and skirts are to be knee-length.



## Footwear

### Formal Shoe Requirements

- Formal shoes are expected to be leather lace-up shoes or T-bar style. It's imperative that shoes are properly buckled or laced up.

### Example of Acceptable Formal Shoes

Black Lace Up School Shoe



Black T-Bar School Shoe



### Unacceptable Formal Shoe Types

- Shoes with flat soles, runners, casual, street or skate shoes regardless of colour (even if they are black) are not permitted.



### Brands Clarification

Certain brands like Dr. Marten boots, Volley, Globe, DC, Element, Nike, Adidas amongst others may market products as 'school shoes', however it is important to note that these do not meet our formal shoe criteria.

### Dress Code Enforcement

Mixing and matching formal and sports uniforms is not permitted. It's expected that all students adhere to the formal College uniform guidelines accurately.

# Miscellaneous Uniform Guidelines

## Hair

- All hair must be tied back off the shoulders, adhering to Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements of the College.
- Distinct patterns, including long dreadlocks and shave patterns are not permitted. There should not be a significant contrast between long and short shaved hair.
- Haircuts should not be shorter than a Number 1, unless for medical reasons.
- Hair colour should be kept natural – extreme styles and colours are not permitted.
- Hair ribbons in the Iona College colours are permitted.

## Facial Hair

- Neat and well-groomed (regularly trimmed and maintained) facial hair is permitted, ensuring it does not distract from the learning environment.
- Extreme styles or unconventional grooming are not permitted.
- Hygiene practices must be maintained at all times.

The College Principal holds the authority to determine the appropriateness of facial hair.

## Make up, Eyelashes and Nails

- Obvious make-up or self-tanning is not permitted.
- Coloured nail polish and acrylic nails are not permitted.
- Fake eyelashes are not permitted.

## Bag

- Only the College backpack is permitted.

## Hats / Beanies

- Hats (bucket, cap or beanies) are not to be worn in classrooms.
- When the UV rating is 3 and higher, students are encouraged to wear the College hat (bucket or cap) during breaks 1 and 2 (generally occurring in Terms 1 and 4).
- Students are required to wear the College hat (bucket or cap) for HPE/ Outdoor Ed/ Camps and College sporting events during Terms 1 and 4.

## Tattoos

- Parents/carers are reminded that young people under the age of 18 cannot receive a tattoo without parental permission. It is important that parents/carers carefully consider the decision to get a tattoo as it is a permanent body modification. Tattoos must not be visible when students are in school uniform or representing the College at events and activities.

## Scarves

- Scarves are only permitted with long sleeved garments and should not be worn during classes or on formal occasions.

It is essential to acknowledge that this uniform policy will undergo periodic review and updates. Additionally, the Principal retains the authority to make determinations regarding the Iona College uniform policy, with the possibility of delegation to other leadership members.

# Sport Uniform

## Option One

- Short Sleeve Iona College Polo Shirt
- Iona College shorts
- Iona College white sports socks

Students may opt to wear the Iona College rugby jumper (Junior or Senior) and / or “puffa jacket”

## Option Two

- Short Sleeve Iona College Polo Shirt
- Iona College tracksuit pants
- Iona College white sports socks

Students may opt to wear the Iona College rugby jumper (Junior or Senior) and / or “puffa jacket”

Students may not wear a long sleeve top of any colour top under their short sleeve polo.



### Rugby Jumper

- Years 7-9 are required to wear the Junior purple rugby jumper.
- Years 10-12 are required to wear the Senior grey rugby jumper.

### Polo Shirt Requirement

- The College polo, either long-sleeved or short-sleeved, is a required component of the sports uniform and must be worn at all times when the sports uniform is required.
- Students may **not** wear a long sleeve top of **any** colour under their short sleeve polo.

### Bottom Options

- Students have the choice between the College shorts and tracksuit pants as part of their sport uniform.
- Shorts should be of appropriate length and fit for a school and activity setting.

### Socks

- When wearing the sports uniform students must wear school white sports socks.

### Additional Attire

- Students may opt to wear the College (Junior or Senior) rugby jumper and / or the “puffa” jacket for added warmth during sports activities.
- The “puffa jacket” is not to be worn over the blazer during formal occasions.
- The Year 12 jumper can be worn during the Year 12 academic year, but not during formal occasions.

## Footwear

- Sports / athletic runners with laces are a prerequisite ensuring proper support during high-intensity exercise to minimize the risk of injury or long-term damage.

## Unacceptable footwear

- Shoes with flat soles, slip-ons or skate shoes such as Converse or Vans are not permitted. (Please refer to unacceptable shoe types for examples).

## Jewellery

**Please note: students may wear up to two plain earrings in the lower lobe. Any other piercings will need to be removed.**

### Earrings

- Plain silver or gold sleepers or stud earrings are permitted. Studs that are 5.0mm or smaller are acceptable.
- Small crosses or diamonds on the earring are also acceptable.
- A maximum of two earrings are allowed in the lower lobe only
- Clear spaces/ plugs/ stretchers are not permitted.

#### Acceptable Earrings



#### Unacceptable Earrings



## Nose rings

- Nose rings are not permitted.
- The use of tape over any piercing is not permitted.

## Bracelets, rings and necklaces

- Bracelets, rings and necklaces are not permitted.



# Bell Times

Period	Start Time	End Time
AM Community Group	9:00 AM	9:08 AM
Session 1	9:08 AM	9:55 AM
Session 2	9:55 AM	10:42 AM
Recess	10:42 AM	11:05 AM
Session 3	11:05 AM	11:52 AM
Session 4	11:52 AM	12:39 AM
Lunch	12:39 PM	1:24 PM
Session 5	1:24 PM	2:11 PM
Session 6	2:11 PM	2:58 PM
PM Community Group	2:58 PM	3:05 PM

# Smart Phone and Smart Watch Policy

## Smart Phones



In recent years, there has been increasing concern about the impact of technology on the mental health of adolescents. One practical step, parents can take is to consider an alternative to the smartphone: the “dumb phone.” Unlike smartphones, these simpler devices allow for essential communication through calls and texts, without the constant distractions of social media, group chats, gaming, or internet access.

Dumb phones not only help reduce exposure to harmful online content, but they also promote healthier routines, greater focus, and stronger face-to-face connections.

At Iona College, we support this approach by collecting and securely storing students phones each morning to help reduce distractions and promote a focused learning environment.

## Smart Watches



### Definition of a cellular-enabled and a GPS-only smart watch

The wearing of a cellular-enabled smart watch is not allowed and other smart watches (e.g. GPS-only) are also highly discouraged to be worn by students.

A Cellular-enabled watch adds a mobile data connection (with a carrier plan), allowing it to function independently of your phone for these tasks, acting like a mini-phone on your wrist.

A GPS-only watch requires your paired iPhone to be nearby to make calls, send texts, receive notifications, and stream music, connecting via Bluetooth or Wi-Fi.



# STUDENT TECHNOLOGY USE AND PROTECTION

In 2026, the College will continue to focus on student technology use. At Iona, we use two exciting tools called Monitor and Connect.

Monitor provides us with insights into students' school-provided devices and internet habits during school hours. It also alerts us to any potential wellbeing concerns that may arise. Monitor enables us to oversee device use at school during class, ensuring a wraparound approach to online safety.

Connect empowers teachers to manage technology and internet use in the classroom. As technology becomes increasingly integrated into learning, it is essential to address the distractions it can bring. Connect allows teachers to activate "focus mode," restricting student laptops to the software necessary for completing specific tasks.

An additional benefit of Monitor and Connect is that families will also receive a license to install similar monitoring and wellbeing services on their young person's personal device. This is entirely optional, and the College will not have access to or oversight of these personal devices.



# School Homework

Iona College's philosophy relating to homework is to:

- provide opportunities for students to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills.
- provide opportunities for students to apply new knowledge.
- provide opportunities for students to prepare for future lessons.
- encourage students to enrich or extend knowledge individually, collectively and imaginatively.
- foster good lifelong learning and study habits.
- support learning partnerships with parents/carers.

## **Homework at Year 7:**

Year 7 students at Iona College are not expected to complete any homework during the first five weeks of Term 1. Students are still expected to read daily over this period of time and may be asked to complete activities that they were unable to finish during class. From the beginning of Term 2, Year 7 students are expected to complete approximately 30 minutes of homework on each school day, primarily in the subjects of English and Mathematics. Students are encouraged to read for pleasure in addition to the allocated homework time.

# Sport/GISSA



Iona College is proud to participate in the Geelong Independent School Sports Association (GISSA) as part of our Wednesday afternoon sport and activity program for year 7 and 8 students. Each term, students have the opportunity to choose a new activity or GISSA sport.

The following sports are available through GISSA:

AFL	Athletics
Basketball	Cricket
Cross Country	Golf
Badminton	Hockey
Gaelic Football	Softball
Table Tennis	Triathalon
Netball	Soccer
Swimming	Waterpolo
Tennis	

In addition to the GISSA Sports offered, students will have the opportunity to undertake activities of choice based on student interest.

These activities may include arts and crafts, minor games, net games, fitness activities, walking, dance and more.

## Other Competitions

- Victorian College Basketball Championships
- Victorian State Netball Championships
- Surf Lifesaving Victoria School Titles

## Extra-Curricular

- State Cross Country
- Equestrian (with parental support)
- Rowing – through Barwon Rowing Club
- School Sports Victoria affiliate
- Iona College v Trinity Colac (Netball & AFL)
- Courage Cup - Iona College v St Josephs College (AFL)



# Iona Music

## Iona Music Ensemble

The Iona College Music Ensemble Program offers a comprehensive music curriculum designed to support students to develop intelligence in multiple forms. We believe in nurturing the diversity of intelligences, encouraging students to think about the world in a wide variety of ways and maximising their musical potential. By providing opportunities in Music, we make sure that all students are given the chance to develop all areas of intelligence.

The Ensemble Program includes:

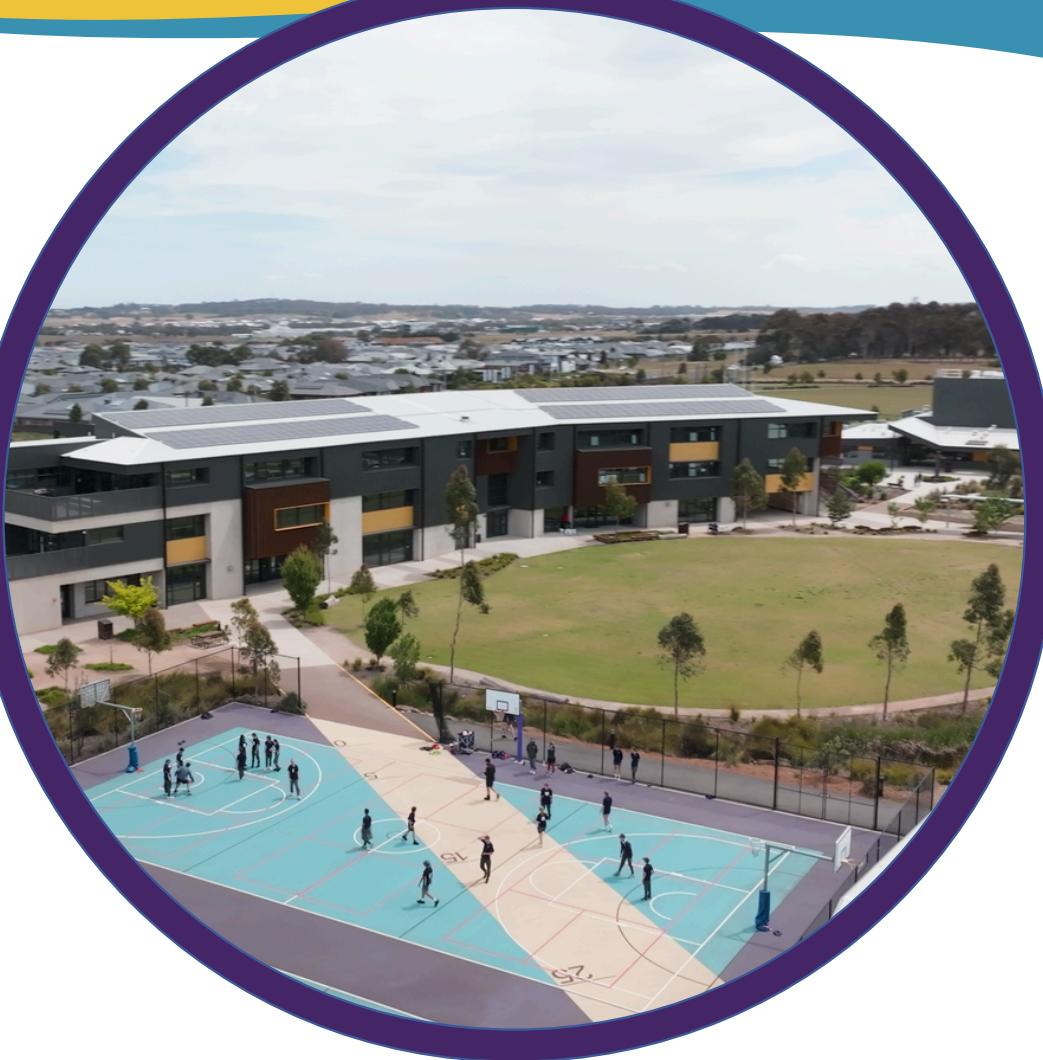
- Choir
- Concert Band
- Contemporary Bands
- String Ensemble

## Private Music Lessons

Iona offers private music lessons that are run throughout the school day, as well as before and after school. A large variety of instruments are available and our teachers are experienced educators. Lessons are rotated so that students do not miss the same academic lessons.

If you're unsure about which instrument your young person might like to learn, we encourage you to visit [Iona's Music website](#). There, you'll find short clips of each instrument, informative videos for parents, and an Instrument Matching Tool that may assist in making the best choice.

For more information regarding Music opportunities please [peruse the Music Department brochure](#). For any further information please email [music@iona.vic.edu.au](mailto:music@iona.vic.edu.au)



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Melbourne Archdiocese  
Catholic Schools

