Welcome to St Agatha’s Catholic Primary School community. I hope that your association with the school will be a happy and fruitful one.

St Agatha’s is a Catholic Parish Diocesan school that strives to see each child as a unique person whose full potential needs are recognised and directed. A friendly, trusting collaboration between Principal, Parish Priest, Teachers and Parents is essential for such development.

You have chosen to give your child a Catholic Education. At school we will do all in our power to guide the children towards a living faith in our God who loves us all. We see the school as an extension of family life and experience, and consequently we realise that parents are the prime educators of their children. It is therefore very important that your lifestyle is firmly grounded in Catholic principles and attitudes.

Thank you parents, for sharing with us these formative years in your child’s life.

Regards,

Kevin Bauer
Principal
School Prayer

*We believe we are all loved by God,*
*and we try to love and be truthful.*

*We believe we can decide to make St Agatha’s*
*a safe and happy place*
*where we play fairly on the playground.*

*We believe we can improve the world*
*by praying and supporting those in need.*

*Help us, Jesus,*
*to always love like you.*
Our Vision
Is to be a Catholic school of excellence where individuals will reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

Our Mission
We value our role as a Catholic school in enhancing faith development, providing a welcoming Catholic community and being an integral part of St Agatha's Parish. We are therefore committed to:

- praying and reflecting together on a regular basis;
- providing a strong and vibrant Religious Education Program;
- celebrating liturgies that reflect both contemporary and traditional aspects of our faith;
- displaying signs and symbols of our faith in our school environment;
- working with the Parish team in supporting parish/school activities; and
- participating in community action that demonstrates our values of justice, equity, care for the environment, peace and service to others.

We value being a school of excellence in teaching and learning. We are therefore committed to:

- developing and providing programs that are innovative, flexible and challenging;
- providing, encouraging and supporting on-going professional development of all staff;
- informing parents and the wider community about our achievements on a regular basis;
- utilising appropriate technology across the curriculum;
- providing opportunities for students and parents to participate in decision-making; and
- maintaining expectations of high academic standards.

We value each person as an individual and believe that each person has a different potential for spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional and physical development. We are therefore committed to:

- designing programs and providing resources to meet a variety of needs and learning styles;
- providing additional support and specialist programs to meet the needs and talents of individuals;
- acknowledging the efforts and achievements of students across all Key Learning Areas;
- providing informative and on-going assessment and reporting using a variety of methods; and
- promoting communication between all members of the school community.

We value the importance of providing a safe and caring environment in which learning can take place. We are therefore committed to:

- implementing a discipline policy that promotes respect for self and others, and the development of conflict resolution skills;
- recognising and endeavouring to meet the emotional needs of the members of our school community;
- providing a physical environment that is free from hazards, clean, well maintained and has recognised safety procedures; and
- encouraging respect for the environment.
At St Agatha’s we believe that children learn best when:-

- respectful relationships are encouraged to facilitate learning and personal growth.
- instruction takes place at the child’s point of need and they are encouraged to take responsible risks to further their learning.
- there is a safe and supportive environment that promotes high expectations.
- they receive feedback that is meaningful, timely and provides direction for future learning.
- learning has a clear purpose, is engaging and motivating.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>NAME:</strong></th>
<th>ST AGATHA’S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **ADDRESS** | 7 TREBOR ROAD  
              PENNANT HILLS NSW 2120 |
| **PHONE** | 9484 7200 |
| **FAX** | 9484 8235 |
| **PRINCIPAL** | Mr Kevin Bauer |
| **EMAIL** | [saph@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:saph@dbb.catholic.edu.au) |
| **WEBSITE** | [www.saphdbb.catholic.edu.au](http://www.saphdbb.catholic.edu.au) |
| **OFFICE HOURS** | 8:30am - 3:30pm |
OUR SCHOOL DAY

SCHOOL HOURS
Morning Bell 8:50am *Playground supervised from 8:20am*
Recess 11:00am - 11:30am
Lunch 1:30pm - 2:20pm
Dismissal 3:10pm

ASSEMBLIES
Each Monday morning a school assembly is held in the school hall. Parents are welcome to participate.

Once a year each class will conduct an assembly in the Martin Hall, based on their classroom achievements. These will be advertised in the school newsletter and parents and friends are welcome to attend.

SICKNESS
A child who is not healthy cannot concentrate on schoolwork. If your child is unwell, please keep him/her at home until completely well. Some common childhood diseases, which will keep them at home are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Precautions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Pox</td>
<td>Students should avoid others (and not attend childcare or school) until at least five days after onset of the rash and all the blisters have dried.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conjunctivitis</td>
<td>Excluded until discharge from eyes has stopped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Measles</td>
<td>Excluded for 4 days from appearance of rash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headlice</td>
<td>Excluded until hair is completely clear of nits or lice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis</td>
<td>Re-admitted to school with a medical certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impetigo</td>
<td>Children with impetigo should be kept home from school or other group settings if their wounds cannot be kept covered until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has been started, or until the blisters have dried out if antibiotics are not used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>People with measles should stay at home until they are no longer infectious (i.e. until 4 days after the rash starts).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringworm</td>
<td>Excluded until all evidence has disappeared or medical certificate is obtained</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES
Children occasionally have minor injuries from their play. All staff are well prepared for first aid and emergency care. In emergency situations, emergency numbers will be contacted and emergency measures taken by the Principal or Assistant Principal.

Any serious accidents or injury is immediately treated and parents are contacted.

*It is the parent’s responsibility to notify the school of changes to home/work/emergency contact phone numbers.*
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE
Both full-time and occasional after school care is available to our students.

Trebor Road Out of School Hours Care (TROOSHC) is a before and after school care centre providing a caring, safe and fun environment for the children of St Agatha’s School. TROOSHC is funded by the families using the facility.

TROOSCH provides a nutritionally balanced menu for both breakfast and afternoon tea, and a wide range of activities that the children enjoy. TROOSCH provides an environment from Monday to Wednesday in which the children are encouraged to complete school homework. This is done between 4.30 p.m. and 5.00 p.m.

The hours of operation during school days are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before School Care</td>
<td>Monday to Friday</td>
<td>7.00 a.m. – 8.30 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After School Care</td>
<td>Monday to Friday</td>
<td>3.10 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At 8.20 a.m. each morning TROOSHC staff will deliver the children to the supervised school playground. For further enquiries please ring 0423 647 607.

SCHOOL BUSES AND PASSES
Pending government decision, all children in Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two are eligible for a free bus or train pass to travel from the nearest bus stop or train station to their home to school and back each day. Children in Year Three to Six are eligible for a free bus or train pass if their home is two kilometres or more from the school "as the crow flies". Children ineligible for free travel may purchase an Opal Card (bus pass) from the transport for NSW.

The school is served by two bus companies. Shorelink (Transdev NSW) which covers Thornleigh, Normanhurst and Hillsbus which covers Beecroft, West Pennant Hills, Cherrybrook, Dural. If you have any queries regarding the bus which services your area please contact the bus company:

Shorelink 9457 8888 or
Hillsbus 8700 0555

A teacher is on duty each afternoon to supervise children catching buses home. Children who catch a bus home are assembled and when the bus arrives are escorted to the bus. There is an expectation by the school and the bus companies that children behave in a safe and courteous manner.

Application forms for an Opal card (bus passes and train passes) are available online at transportnsw.info/school-students. Once all information has been completed please print and return the form to the school office.

CHILD SAFETY
We place significant emphasis upon the safety and care of our children. Staff are very aware of the need for safety and readily supervise all activities from 8:20am to 3:10pm. Safety programmes are often presented to heighten the child’s awareness.
Boundary Road Bus Duty

- Two Teachers walk the children on the footpath, across the crossing and up to the Church via walk-in gate near Room 23.
- When crossing the drive through road, one Teacher goes ahead to stop the traffic and the second Teacher supervises the crossing of all the children. The second Teacher does not leave the crossing until all the children are across to the Church footpath.
- Children line up in five lines between Boundary Road and the Church.
- One teacher goes ahead to the gate to see which buses are waiting and then report back to the Teachers. There should not be any eating in the lines or on the bus.
- As each bus parks, children are lined up and supervised onto the bus in an orderly and polite way allowing youngest children on first.
- Bus 1 – 3604 to West Pennant Hills Valley
- Bus 2 – 3505 Mount St Benedict College then Thompsons Corner
- Bus 3 – 3535 to Mount St Benedict College then Oakhill
- Bus 4 - 3645 to Beecroft Public School
- Bus 5 – 3606 to West Pennant Hills
- Children are reminded to sit in the seats at the front near the bus driver. No children are to sit further down the bus.

Trebor Road Bus Duty

- Children line up on the basketball court in bus lines
- Two Teachers wait until all children are there
- As each bus parks, children are lined up and get onto the bus in an orderly and polite way letting the youngest ones on first.
- Children to sit in the seats at the front near the bus driver. No children are to sit further down the bus.
- Children who cross at the crossing in Trebor Road line up with the bus children and walk to the crossing with Trebor Road bus children.

Drive Through

- Children sit in the drive through covered area (not on the pathway)
- A member of staff uses the portable microphone to call each child’s name e.g., “Ben on 1” or “Chloe on 2”
- Two Teachers stand on the number marker in the wait areas and load children into cars, paying attention to traffic flow while supervising children. Teachers walk children to their car. Children need to hold hands with the teacher and siblings.
- Parents to remind children to buckle up.
- If parents are new to drive through teachers will take some time to explain the stop line, the clear view walking space, loading area at speed hump and to stay in their cars.
- Remind children to sit in the covered area and chat or read – all balls and food should be in school bags.
Grassy Area

- Children that are being picked up by parents on the school grounds are to sit on the bench seats along the garden.
- This is NOT an area for playing. Children go and stand with their parents if parents have arrived.
- All other children should be sitting and waiting.
- Children are unsupervised in grassy area.

Trebor Road Crossing

- The RTA crossing supervisor works from 8.00 – 9.30 am and 2.30 – 4.00 pm.

Access to School Grounds

The school gates are open in the morning until 9.00 a.m. All gates are then shut and locked for the day.

Parent helpers are able to exit the school via the EMERGENCY gate near the driveway.

Parents wishing to enter the grounds for such activities as Tuckshop, classroom assistance or playgroup, should go to the Office and sign in - once they have signed in office staff will buzz them through the security gate.

There is no entry/access to the school driveway in Trebor Road after 8:10am. Entry only via Boundary Road after 8:10am.

Parking

There is limited parking available in the morning in the Top Playground. Park only in the areas marked in white. The Staff carpark is for Staff Only.

There is no parking available in school grounds in the afternoon.

Parking areas both sides of the driveway and at the side of the Administration Block are for STAFF PARKING only.
GENERAL INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE
It is important to send your child to school every day on time, as children need to develop a routine. This includes sports carnivals and excursions.

What if my child has to have a day off school?
That’s okay – as long as the reason comes under ‘acceptable absences’
- Phone the school office before 9:00am to advise that your child will be absent that day (An answering machine is available if the office is unattended) or via the skoolbag app.
- Should you fail to notify us by the start of the school day, we will assume that you have sent your child to school, and we will begin emergency procedures.
- Send a note on the first day back to explain the reason for the absence (it is a legal requirement that absences be covered by a written explanation).
- If your child is going to be absent from school for more than five days, e.g. family holiday, you will need to fill in an Application for Exemption From Attendance at School form, prior to the time your child will be absent, which is then given to the Principal to sign. If your child is absent for five days or less, a letter to the school is required.

What if my child is late arriving to school or has to leave early from school?
That’s okay
- If your child is late to school, i.e. arrives after 8.50am, parents are required to come to the office with their child and fill in and sign a late form. This form is then given to the class teacher by the child.
- If children have appointments during the day, parents are required to come to the office and fill in a partial absence form. The child is then called down to the office. Morning tea and lunch time pick up are difficult as it is hard to find the children on the playground. Please try and pick children up either before or after morning tea or lunch.

PUNCTUALITY
Punctuality is important for the children to settle at school. All children need to be at school for the beginning of the school day at 8:50am. Late arrivals must report to the school office to be signed in. A late slip is then to be handed to the classroom teacher and is recorded in the roll.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
Band
Band is available from Year Three to Six. For further information please contact Teaching Services on 9651 7333

Drama
Drama lessons are held at lunchtimes for Years One – Six. For further Information contact Louise Gardiner of Helen O’Grady Children’s Drama Academy on 9875 3139

Tae Kwon Do
Tae Kwon Do lessons are held in the school hall after school. For further information contact Greg Wylie on 0414 373 473

Chess
Chess lessons are held before school in the music room for children in Years Three to Six. Further information can be found in the school office or you can contact Sydney Academy of Chess on 9745 1170
Art Express

Broad curriculum creative art classes are available for students in Years One – Six. For further information please contact Jo Marshall on jo.marshall@live.com.au

SCHOOL FEES
The schedule of fees is provided annually. Your total account is billed annually with three instalment payment dates, advised on your statement. Monthly payment arrangements are available. To assist with the administration of money matters at school parents are asked to follow these procedures:

- Please send correct amount.
- When paying school fees payment can be made by Bpay (preferred), cash, cheque or EFTPOS. Please note we only accept Visa or Mastercard.
- All payments should be placed in a sealed envelope and clearly marked with the child's name, class and purpose.
- Remind children to hand money to their class teacher as soon as they go into class.

SUN SMART POLICY
Our school has a “sun smart” policy that endorses the use of hats and sunscreen. Children are to wear their hat every day of the year. Parents are encouraged to put sunscreen on their children. Children without hats are required to sit undercover.

SUPERVISION
The school day commences at 8.50 a.m. and ends at 3.10 p.m.

Supervision is provided in the morning from 8.20 a.m. until the bell rings at 8.50 a.m. on the Basketball playground. No responsibility can be taken for children arriving at school before that time. Those arriving before 8.20 a.m., having placed their bags in line, must sit on the stairs on the basketball courts.

Once the afternoon bell rings children are supervised at the bus stops and drive through. For those children collected from the school grounds of an afternoon there is no supervision. The school does not provide supervision of students either on the school premises or in the school surrounds outside these times. Teachers are often present at school outside these times but they cannot perform supervisory duties. It is expected that parents book their children into TROOSHC on a permanent or casual basis if they cannot collect their children by 3.10 p.m.

COMMUNICATION
There is regular communication with parents in a variety of ways:

- Skoolbag App – school website – weekly newsletter
- Parent/Teacher Nights – Term 1
- Parent & Friends Meetings
- Parent Teacher Interviews – Term 2
- Class Overviews – Beginning of each Term
STUDENT MOBILE PHONES
Mobile phones are not needed by students at school. We understand that some parents may wish to contact their child after school as a safety measure, when they are travelling home. It is inappropriate for students to have access to mobiles during the school day.

So, if parents wish their child to bring a mobile phone to school, written permission is required and the phone needs to be clearly labelled with the child's name and class. Students will need to hand in the phone to the school office each morning as soon as they arrive at school. They will then pick it up from the office at the conclusion of the school day. No child will be allowed to use their phone on school premises, as the office is the point of contact for parent communication, should it be required.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR
The school counsellor can/may provide short term counselling and/or mental health assessments for individual students.

CHILDREN’S PROPERTY
All clothing and property should be CLEARLY MARKED with the child's name. This includes jackets, school bags, lunch boxes, drink bottles and hats. This ensures lost property can be returned to the owner. Lost property is located outside TROOHC.

SCHOOL EXCURSIONS
During the year teachers plan to take classes on excursions or to have performers come to the school. These are planned to fit in with class work and form an important part of your child's education. It is necessary that all children attend the excursions.

SCHOOL TUCKSHOP
St Agatha's Tuckshop is registered as a healthy school tuckshop and is careful about the selection of products available to children. The menu is colour coded to assist with healthy choices.

Lunches are available from the Tuckshop on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and are ordered via the Tuckshop or our online ordering system on our website. Becoming part of the Tuckshop Team is an excellent way to get to know the other St Agatha's families. A form for Tuckshop Volunteers will be sent home early in the first term. The Tuckshop can be contacted by leaving a message with the school office.

When ordering your child's lunch, please write your child's name and class, what the child requires and the cost on a paper bag and place the money inside the paper bag. The child then takes the order to the Tuckshop before school begins.

SPORT AND SPORTS HOUSES
The school has a comprehensive sporting program and to support it we have access to the eighty hectares of sports fields at Pennant Hills Park, 2.1 kilometres away. Due to the traffic density of Pennant Hills Road, the primary students travel by bus each Wednesday to the ovals, soccer fields, hockey fields and netball courts, depending on the sports program for the term.

Kindergarten, Year One and Year Two each have a separate sports day with their class each week on the main playground. In addition a specialist physical education (PE) Teacher provides one lesson per week for each class.

All the children wear their sports uniform to school each week on the days when their class is having sport or PE.

From our school Athletics, Swimming and Cross Country Carnivals a group of students are selected to represent St Agatha's at the Northern Suburbs' Catholic Primary Schools' Sports Association (fourteen schools participating). If successful there, they participate in the Broken Bay
Diocesan Squads, where they meet the best athletes from our other two clusters: the Central Coast and the Northern Beaches cluster. Success at the Diocesan level leads to competing at the State Level with children from Catholic, State and Independent primary schools.

New children are assigned a colour house at the beginning of each year and children with older siblings at St Agatha's will join the same House.

**House Colours**

MacKillop  
Therry  
Gilroy  

Polding  
Chisholm
CHILD PROTECTION

At St Agatha’s we take our responsibility to protect children seriously. All staff are expected to promote child safety by having a clear understanding of their legal child protection responsibilities and act in accordance with those responsibilities.

In particular the school will:

1. Maintain professionalism in our interactions with children at all times by exercising appropriate duty of care and maintaining appropriate professional boundaries.
2. Follow an established process to address allegations of inappropriate behaviour by staff towards children.
3. Ensure all people working in our school who are required to undertake a Working With Children Check have a valid clearance.
4. Respond appropriately when we suspect a child is at risk of significant harm due to possible abuse or neglect by a parent/carer or other adult.

For further details and information please refer to the website.

Child Protection Parent Information Sheet –

COMPLAINTS

At St Agatha’s we take complaints seriously and try to resolve them in the most appropriate, efficient and confidential manner possible. For further details and information please refer to website.

Guide to making a complaint

PARENT HELPERS / VOLUNTEERS

Parent, close relatives and other volunteer participation involvement and help are welcome and appreciated for various activities both in school and on excursions.

It is important that all volunteers are aware that they are subject to child protection legislation. This means all volunteers must:

- sign in at the front office, be inducted and get a visitors badge from the office as per school procedure.
- check with the school what the current requirements are for the working with children – complete Form S020, S021 and return to the office.
- not engage in any inappropriate behaviour towards any children. In particular although volunteers are technically not employed by the school, they are considered to be ‘staff’ for legal purposes and need to be aware that complaints about inappropriate behaviour towards any child or young person must be investigated (see Child Protection).
- parents cannot volunteer for an excursion or helping in the classroom if appropriate documentation has not been completed.
- when assisting at an excursion parents must be briefed on the risk assessment at 8:40am on the day of the excursion (or at an appropriate time called by the teacher).
PARISH STAFF
Fr Paul Durkin, Parish Priest
Office Hours Monday to Friday 8.30am – 3.00pm
Contact 9484 1427
Email parishsecretary@stagatha.org.au

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS
In the Diocese of Broken Bay, all of the sacramental programs (Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation) are family-based. The parish sets the timetable for the three sacramental programs each year and invites each family to respond to the programs offered on behalf of each child.

The family, supported by the Parish Priest and the Sacramental Program Co-ordinators, prepare the child to receive the sacraments at a designated time.

The school’s religious education program supports the sacramental program through the units of work taught at various grade levels.

CHILDREN’S LITURGY OF THE WORD
During the School Term at the 9.00 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Sunday Masses children aged 4 - 12 are invited to attend a special reflection on the Gospel. They leave after the Introductory Rite and come back to the family at the Offertory. Each group of children is led by an adult and completes activities levelled at their understanding.

FAMILY MASS
There is a family mass held twice a term at the 9:00am Sunday parish mass. Children are encouraged to participate in this mass.
We believe that parental contributions are paramount in ensuring that St Agatha’s operates to its full potential.

PARENTS’ AND FRIENDS’ ASSOCIATION
The main parental decision-making body within the school is the Parents’ and Friends’ Association (P & F). The P & F follows the constitutional guidelines of the Diocese and supports the social, material and educational well-being of the school community. As well as liaising between the parish, the school, and sub-committees, it co-ordinates and encourages parental involvement in:

- Social activities, e.g. welcome BBQ and movie night, end of year dinner.
- On-going activities, e.g., working bees.
- Major projects, e.g., playground development.
- Fund raising
- Assisting in the classroom in the key learning areas.
- Providing a forum for discussing pertinent educational issues.

You are cordially invited to general meetings that are held each term. The venue for meetings is the Library.

The school supports the NSW Parents Council and to keep abreast of the Council’s activities a special liaison group has been formed. In addition, we belong to our Broken Bay Diocesan Parents’ Council.

The Council of Catholic School Parents in the Diocese of Broken Bay is also developing an important role across our schools and is receiving strong support from St Agatha’s P & F Association.

PARENT PRAYER
Parent Prayer is held twice a Term, these sessions are informal and participation is at your discretion.

CLASS PARENTS
Class Parents are parent volunteers from every class within St Agatha’s. At the beginning of the year, you will receive a letter inviting you to volunteer to be a class parent. One parent volunteer from each class is allocated the role of class parent.

The Class Parents aim to:

- Welcome new families
- Foster friendships amongst parents in the class
- Help communicate information about and promote school activities and relevant functions to your class
- Assist the classroom teachers where it is needed
- Encourage family support and assistance where needed (e.g. arrival of new baby, or when a family member is ill)
Some of the activities class parents run are:

- Fun Food Days
- Mother’s Day Stall
- Father’s Day Stall
- Class social functions

**ST AGATHA’S PLAYGROUP**

St. Agatha’s Playgroup is a great chance to meet families in our area and to familiarise your children with the school. It is a very casual friendly atmosphere where all are welcome. Playgroup meets every Thursday of each school term from 10.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. in the Troosh Room. Parking is available in the surrounding streets. Morning tea is shared on a roster system and craft responsibilities are also shared. The children have a chance to do some craft, sing, play musical instruments and play with the toys. It is a great opportunity to meet other parents, grandparents and carers and enjoy some adult company.

Please call the office on 9484 7200 if you would like to make inquiries.
Wearing the School Uniform contributes significantly to the identity of our school community.

It is important that all children wear the full school uniform everyday. If, for any reason, this is not possible, please send a letter to your child’s class teacher explaining the temporary issue. Children not wearing the uniform will be followed up and consequences may apply.

Dress must always be tidy, shoes cleaned at least once a week, ties on properly and shirts tucked in.

Hair
- Girls - long hair should be tied back. Hair accessories must be in the school colours – blue and white, and can be purchased from the Uniform shop.
- Boys - no longer than collar length/or tied back

Jewellery
No nail polish, bracelets, rings, necklaces or jewellery of any kind is to be worn, unless for medical purposes. Girls with pierced ears must wear plain studs or sleepers only.

Children are required to wear their school hat before and after school, during morning tea, lunch, sport, excursions. “No hat, play in the shade”.

The uniform shop is located in the tunnel next to the hall and is open Monday and Friday mornings from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

N.B. Please note School Library bags, School backpacks and School Home Bags are compulsory and are only available from the School’s Uniform Shop.

All items, except footwear, are to be purchased from the School's Uniform Shop.

School Shoes are to be black leather shoes and sports footwear are to be predominately white in colour.
KEY LEARNING AREAS (KLA’s)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
The very reason for our existence is to offer each child the opportunity to develop their faith and come to know Jesus and understand their Catholic heritage.

The essential goal of Religious Education in a Catholic School is to encourage and assist children in their growth to Christian maturity in the Catholic tradition. This education enables the children to -

- Know and love the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as revealed by Jesus.
- Develop an awareness that God is our friend who loves us and walks with us every day of our lives.
- Experience, within a secure school environment, the confidence to cope with life.
- Grow as active and supportive members of our faith community within Parish life.
- Know, share and respond to Jesus' message of love.

The children are involved in organising and attending class and school liturgies. Each primary class attends at least two parish masses (9.30 a.m.) a year. There are at least 4 whole school masses a year that all children attend. Parents are most welcome to join our celebrations. These will be advertised in the newsletter.

Sacraments and their preparation at St Agatha's are family based within the Parish. The school's role is to support the Diocesan Sacramental Program.

ENGLISH
English is one of seven Key Learning Areas in the school curriculum for Kindergarten -Year 6. As well as being a Key Learning Area in its own right, English has a wider role as a tool for learning in all curriculum areas.

English consists of – reading and viewing, writing and representing and speaking and listening, all of which are concerned with the relationship between language and meaning and use. As such it allows for

- The diversity of language contexts in a multicultural society.
- Emphasis on both spoken and written language.
- Differences in the learning styles of individual students.

At St Agatha's we ensure that all areas of English, are covered at each Year Level and we aim to develop the competence and confidence of all students in learning and using language.

MATHEMATICS
Mathematics is about ways of thinking which are logical, analytical and about seeing connections. As a creative activity, mathematics involves invention, intuition and exploration. It involves thinking and representations such as diagrams, graphs and symbols. Mathematics also involves being able to use mathematical ways of thinking to make decisions and to solve problems.

Our school policy is based on the NSW Curriculum, which sees children participating in mathematical activities which have been sequenced to allow a positive development in attitude and skills. We firmly believe in the use of equipment/resources to better facilitate children's learning of mathematical concepts.
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

'Personal Development, Health and Physical Education is in keeping with the Catholic ideals of an education of the whole person. Thoughts, sensations, emotions and physical activities all have an influence on each other and on the individual's growth towards personal maturity. Catholic education aims to mould these elements into a harmonious unity, in the light of human understanding and faith.'

Most Rev. P.L. Murphy DD, Past Chairman, Catholic Education Commission, NSW

This program –

- Encourages an understanding and valuing of self and others. It provides opportunities for students to explore and form positive attitudes about themselves and others, to communicate effectively, work co-operatively with others and to develop and maintain positive relationships.

- Promotes physical activity. It provides regular and frequent opportunities for students to acquire and apply movement skills, enhance their creativity and aesthetic awareness and develop positive attitudes toward regular physical activity in the pursuit of an active, healthy lifestyle.

- Emphasises informed decision-making leading to effective and responsible actions. It provides opportunities for students to understand the process of decision-making, practise the skills involved in decision-making and apply those skills and understandings to everyday problems.

CREATIVE ARTS

This curriculum area covers -

- Music
- Dance
- Drama
- Visual Arts

These areas make a unique contribution to students' overall development and enhance their learning.

The K-6 program caters for the needs of our multicultural population at St Agatha's and as well encourages and guides those with specific learning needs and interests. Many activities lend themselves to integration across the other Key Learning Areas and make it a more meaningful experience for students.

The Creative Arts program aims to provide students with opportunities to:

- Develop self-expression and communication by making artworks and performing in music, dance and drama activities.
- Develop sensory awareness and imagination through many and varied learning experiences.
- Develop the ability to think and act creatively.
- Develop the skills necessary in each of the respective areas in order to enable them to function effectively at their level of maturation.
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of the arts from the past and present.
• Develop a positive self-concept.
• Enjoy themselves and develop an appreciation of their own individual efforts as well as the ability to respect and praise the efforts of others.
• Learning experiences in Creative Arts may extend beyond the classroom, into the school environment and local community.
• Active participation by individuals as well as group co-operation is encouraged.

SCHOOL CHOIR
The school has a choir for children in Year 2 to 6. Any child may join this choir. Children are given many opportunities to perform during the year. Leadership opportunities are also available and choir captains are appointed each year.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Science and Technology is the learning area in which children develop an enriched view of themselves, society, the environment and the future.

The children develop their ability to work scientifically and technologically through as the following content area:

• built environments,
• information,
• physical world,
• products,
• earth and space
• material world

They are taught to use processes such as investigating, designing and producing and the use of technology, in a “hands on” approach to science. The children work in co-operative groups where each child takes turns at different roles.

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY
History
The students develop knowledge and understanding about the nature of history and key changes and developments from the past. They also study key historical concepts and develop the skills to undertake the process of historical inquiry.

Geography
The geographical concepts of place, space, environment, interconnection, scale, sustainability and charge are key ideas that are taught to enable students to think geographically.
LIBRARY
St Agatha's Library has a large collection of fiction and non-fiction books to suit all reading and interest levels in the school. The Library is fully computerised and the children are encouraged to use the computers to search for references as well as to borrow and return books. The Library serves as a support to the learning processes of the classrooms as well as a very important recreation facility to the children of St Agatha's.

Every class has a Library borrowing period each week during which the children are encouraged to select and borrow books suitable for them. The Library is open at lunch times to provide an alternative activity area to the playground where children are able to read, work or mix in a less physically active environment.

Children are encouraged to participate in the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

LEARNING SUPPORT
The Learning Support Teacher offers classroom support to classroom teachers for those children with identified special needs. Together with the classroom teacher and parents, an Individualised Program (IP) is developed and implemented for each child.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) SUPPORT
Children with a language background other than English (LBOTE) and children with English as a Second Language (ESL) background, are supported with literacy, if necessary, through the literacy support program.

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM
Gifted and talented children are catered for in many different ways at St Agatha’s.

Teachers differentiate their programs with open-ended tasks to enable student access at various levels of learning.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION LEARNING TECHNOLOGY (ICLT)
Computers enrich the educational environment of all students and support the achievement of quality in education. Computers may be used to assist young children to acquire basic literacy and numeracy skills. With appropriate software and teacher guidance they promote a co-operative approach to problem solving.

We recognise that computers can be used by teachers to promote the active involvement and engagement of students in their own learning. All classes have access to internet resources. Our library is a centre of learning technology where children have access to Ipads to enrich their learning. All classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and laptops to support children in their learning.
Inspiring and challenging our children to know, think and value

We are RESPECTFUL

We are RESPONSIBLE

We are LEARNERS
Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Awards

10 Mini Merit Awards

1 Bronze PBL Award
(Celebrate in your classroom)

3 Bronze PBL Awards

1 Silver PBL Award
(Presented at Monday morning assembly)

3 Silver PBL Awards

Plus 10 more Mini Merits

Gold PBL Award
(Presented at Monday morning assembly)

Mini Merits

Thank you for being an active LEARNER

Thank you for being RESPONSIBLE

Thank you for modelling RESPECT