



Dear Parents and Caregivers

A pre-emptive welcome to the 2024 school year. A special welcome to new families who commence their educational journey at St Francis Xavier. To ensure a successful and orderly start to the school year, here are a few reminders:

### **Uniform**

A high standard of dress and grooming is essential to reflect the personal standards required of a student at Saint Francis Xavier. The Parents are asked to assist the school in this area. In particular, extreme hairstyles are not permitted, which include mullets, rat tails, shaved, undercuts or number one cuts. When purchasing shoes, please ensure they are all black, including the sole. The uniform expectation can be found [HERE](#)

### **Before School Supervision**

Supervision of students before school commences at 8:15 am. I understand work commitments are challenging however, please have students arrive no earlier than this.

### **Open Classrooms**

Rooms will be open the first week of the school term from 8:30 am to provide the opportunity to see your child's class. Be mindful that in junior years, wet areas can be extremely congested. We ask that only one parent per family enter the area each day to ensure an orderly learning environment can be established. Teaching and learning commences at 8:45 am.

### **Parking**

Please refrain from accessing the staff carpark to drop off or collect children before school or at the end of the school day. Over 400 students exit the grounds, and unnecessary vehicles create a hazard, compromising the safety of students. The City is supportive and allows families to park in bays closest to Maitland Street at pick-up times. The safety of all students outweighs individual convenience.

### **Kiss and Drop**

St Francis Xavier has two Kiss and Drop areas. Parents should not park or exit their vehicles in these areas. These zones are for students who can quickly and independently enter and exit a car. I ask parents to consider the safety of all students and be respectful of all families when using any Kiss and Drop or parking facilities.

### **Staffing Update**

Staff shortages are being experienced, and attracting teachers to regional areas is extremely difficult. To support all Catholic Schools in Geraldton in having a classroom teacher at the start of the year, Mrs Sarah D'Mello and Mrs Jessica Ruiz have been seconded to St John's. St Francis Xavier is finalising a replacement Physical Education Teacher, which will be communicated once the paperwork is finalised. I am grateful of Mrs D'Mello and Mrs Ruiz support to Catholic Education.

As we prepare to commence the school year, let us work together to ensure our children have the greatest opportunity to succeed and fulfil our mission to be a Christ-centred Child Focused School.

I look forward to welcoming students and families on Wednesday, January 31st.

Ben Doyle  
Principal