

Data from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development shows that 43% of Australian Teens cannot read a Public Transport Map. 50% lack sufficient mathematical ability to calculate the cost of a grocery list. It is more apparent each year that our modern education system is failing children.

We need an alternative. We need a return to the tested tradition of education that built our civilization. At St Philomena School, we believe in this education with a tradition. An education which the Greek Philosopher, Socrates, said 'is not the filling of a vessel, but the kindling of a flame'. We recognize the eternal worth of a child's soul and seek to bring him or her into contact with the truth, to be set aflame with the love for all that is true, good and beautiful.

The great Catholic educator, Fr Edward Leen, wrote:

*A man is educated when he thinks human life as the Author Himself of human life thinks it.*

*He is better educated still when he can admire and appreciate the real beauty that comes from the creative mind of the supreme artist, and such imitations of that beauty as proceed from the creative genius of man.*

*He is highly educated when, in addition to all this, he can give apt expression in words to the truth he has grasped, and apt expression in plastic materials to the beauty he has glimpsed.*

In the light of this vision of education, our mission is to spark a sense of wonder in the glory of God's creation in each student of St Philomena School. We nourish their souls with the good, the true and the beautiful, in art, music and literature. We show them the order and proportion of number in mathematics and the grandeur of the world around them in science – from the single cell to the universe. We develop their appreciation of their own language in the study of Latin. We help them to understand their place in the world and in society by studying history.

With an emphasis on grammar and logic, our liberal arts curriculum empowers students to think rightly, judge rightly, and love rightly – but more than this, it teaches them how to communicate their thoughts with clarity, precision and grace.

For the first time in Australia access to a truly classical, Catholic education by distance learning is now possible. The St Philomena School of Distance Learning is currently accepting enrolments for years 7&8 for the school year commencing in January 2026.

We are accepting enrolments for year 9 for 2027, year 10 for 2028, year 11 for 2029 and year 12 in 2029.