

Newsletter



EDMUND RICE EDUCATION AUSTRALIA

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SCHOOLS

This Term in *St Joseph's Catholic Flexible School Darwin* Our Classroom

This term has been an exciting and busy start for our School as we welcomed our first young people to St Joseph's. We have focused on building positive relationships, getting to know one another, and creating a safe and supportive learning environment for both young people and staff.

Throughout the term, our young people have been developing their numeracy and literacy skills through a range of engaging activities while continuing to build confidence, friendships, and classroom routines. We are proud of the positive start our young people have made and look forward to continuing their learning journey next term.



Save the Date for
our Grand Opening!

Save the Date!

When: Thursday November 12 2026

Where: 107B Boulter road, Berrimah

This is an amazing opportunity to
celebrate our young people and staff
who have helped shape St Joseph's
Catholic Flexible School, Darwin.

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Classroom Moments

This term has been filled with hands-on learning, creativity, teamwork, and plenty of fun. From exploring the life of David Attenborough and strengthening our literacy and numeracy skills to creating artwork, conducting science experiments, and working together in PE, our students have embraced every opportunity to learn and grow

Literacy

Our young people celebrated David Attenborough's 100th birthday by learning about his life and watching documentaries. Through these activities, they practised predicting, discussing ideas, and developing their comprehension skills. Our young people have also continued to strengthen their handwriting through regular literacy activities. Each day, our young people work together to complete Wordle, Connections, and Contexto. These brain challenges encourage problem-solving, teamwork, and communication as students work towards a shared goal.

Numeracy

Our young people have been building their confidence with addition, subtraction, and multiplication through a range of practical and engaging activities. One of our favourite activities this term has been Multiplication Bingo, which has helped our young people practise their multiplication facts while having fun and working alongside their peers.



Classroom Moments

Art

Our young people explored their creativity through Reconciliation Week artwork, designs for the Flexi Schools T-shirt Competition, and colourful alphabet letters that now brighten our classroom space.

Sport and PE

This term, our young people focused on teamwork, communication, and working together towards common goals through a range of sporting activities and games.

Science

Our young people enjoyed becoming scientists as they made cloud dough using cornflour, food colouring, and conditioner. This hands-on activity encouraged curiosity, creativity, and exploration.



Visitors and Outings

Our young people enjoyed attending their first community outing for Reconciliation Week at Raintree Park, where they had the opportunity to connect with others and learn about the importance of reconciliation.

We were also fortunate to welcome special visitors to our classroom, including Bishop Charles Gauci, Fairy Jill for face painting, Shannon Motlop, who shared his knowledge of bush tucker and Indigenous culture, and Dave Spry, who engaged our young people through Indigenous music and creative expression.



Important Information

Inclusion Meet Jen!



Email: jen.tan@flexi.edu.au

Mobile: 0461 357 310

Hi, I'm Jen. I am the Inclusive Education Coordinator for St Joseph's Catholic Flexible School here in Darwin and also Alice Springs. The NCCD is an important part of how the Australian Government stays up-to-date with who our young people are and what they require to be the best they can be.

You would have received communication from the school introducing you to the NCCD, including what and why it happens. The infographic on the final page is purely a visual version of that information.

One part of my role is to make sure that the individual needs of all our young people, and the hard work of our team here at St Joseph's to meet those needs, is accurately reported in this census.

The school may be in contact with you in the following weeks as we complete this process.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss inclusive practices or the NCCD in more detail, please feel free to contact me.

Welcome New Staff!

We are excited to welcome two new staff members to our school community for Term 3.

Hannah Smith joins us as a Teacher, bringing enthusiasm and a commitment to supporting our young people in their learning journey. We also welcome Stephen Versteegh, who joins our team as Area Principal for our Darwin and Alice Springs campus.

We look forward to the knowledge, experience, and positive contributions they will bring to our school.

Hannah Smith email: h.smith1@flexi.edu.au

Stephen Versteegh email: stephen.versteegh@flexi.edu.au

Child Safeguarding

The safety and wellbeing of our young people remains our highest priority. We encourage all families to maintain open communication with their young people about personal safety, respectful relationships, online activity, and seeking support when needed. If you have any concerns about the wellbeing of a young person, please contact the school so we can work together to provide appropriate support. Creating a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment is a shared responsibility, and we thank our community for helping us keep our young people safe.

Term 3 Important Dates

Please note: Some dates, including student-free days for staff professional learning and training, are yet to be confirmed. We will communicate these dates with families as soon as they are finalised.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	13 th of July PLP Meetings	14 th of July PLP Meetings	15 th of July Term 3 begins		
Week 2					24 th of July Darwin Show Public Holiday No school
Week 3					
Week 4	3 rd of August Picnic Day Public Holiday No School				
Week 5					
Week 6					
Week 7	24 th of August Staff PD No School	25 th of August Staff PD No School			
Week 8					
Week 9					
Week 10					18 th of September Last day of Term 3

Important Information

AusAlert

Australia's New Emergency Warning System

Australia is introducing AusAlert, a new national emergency warning system that will send emergency alerts directly to compatible mobile phones, smart watches, and tablets.

AusAlert uses new technology that works independently of mobile phone networks, helping ensure important warnings can still be delivered during emergencies.

There are two types of alerts:

- Critical Alerts – used for immediate threats to life and property. These alerts cannot be turned off and will sound even when a device is on silent or "Do Not Disturb".
- Priority Alerts – used for less urgent warnings. These can be turned off in device settings.

A national test of the system will take place on Monday 27 July 2026 at 1:30pm (ACST).

During this test, compatible devices may emit a loud alert sound and vibration, even if they are set to silent.

To minimise disruption, families are encouraged to discuss the test with young people beforehand.

Further information about AusAlert will be shared as it becomes available.

School Immunisation Program Diphtheria Booster

We are currently exploring options to introduce a school-based immunisation program to support the health and wellbeing of our young people.

Diphtheria is a serious bacterial infection that can affect the throat, nose, and skin. In severe cases, it can cause breathing difficulties, heart problems, and other serious complications. While vaccination has made diphtheria uncommon in Australia, recent increases in cases across parts of the country, including the Northern Territory, highlight the importance of staying up to date with immunisations.

We will keep families informed as we investigate possible immunisation opportunities and will provide further information when a school-based program becomes available.

NCCD: Information for Parents, Guardians and Carers

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability



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Every year, all schools in Australia take part in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability (NCCD). The NCCD helps schools and governments understand how many students are receiving support at school because of disability, and what level of support they need.

WHAT IS THE NCCD?



The NCCD counts students who receive ongoing adjustments or support at school because of disability.

These adjustments help them access education on the same basis as other students.



Schools provide this information to education authorities.



The NCCD is based on the definition of disability in the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*.

WHAT INFORMATION IS COLLECTED?

If a student receives ongoing adjustments or support at school due to disability, schools collect:



Their year of schooling



The broad category of disability (physical, cognitive, sensory or social/emotional)



The level of adjustment or support provided at school (within quality teaching, supplementary, substantial or extensive)

WHAT IS AN ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is something the school does to help a student take part in learning on the same basis as other students.

Examples include:



Changing how lessons are taught



Providing extra time or support



Using assistive technology



Providing personal care support



Making changes to the school environment, such as ramps



Adapting classroom activities

Schools make these adjustments in consultation with students, parents, guardians and carers where appropriate.



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St Joseph's Catholic Flexible School is established in the Edmund Rice tradition. We support young people who may already find it difficult to access or engage in mainstream schooling. Because of this, many adjustments and supports are already built into our whole-school approach. These supports help students take part in learning in ways that meet their individual needs.

WHY IS THE NCCD IMPORTANT?



The NCCD helps schools:

- ✓ recognise the support they are already providing
- ✓ review and improve support for students with disability
- ✓ plan learning programs more effectively
- ✓ improve communication with families
- ✓ meet their legal responsibilities under disability education laws



NCCD information also helps governments plan funding, policies and programs to better support students with disability across Australia.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY



- ✓ Student privacy is protected.
- ✓ Personal details (such as student names or student identification numbers) are not provided to federal education authorities.
- ✓ Information is reported in a way that does not identify individual students.



All information is collected and handled according to privacy laws.

WHEN DOES IT HAPPEN?



The NCCD takes place every year, usually in August.

All schools are required to collect and submit NCCD information each year.

WHO IS INCLUDED?

Students with a broad range of disabilities may be included, for example:

- students with learning difficulties (such as dyslexia)
- students with chronic health conditions (such as epilepsy or diabetes)
- students with physical, sensory, cognitive or social/emotional needs



FURTHER INFORMATION



If you have questions about the NCCD or your child's support at school, please contact the school.

More information is available on the NCCD Portal:
www.nccd.edu.au



The NCCD helps build better understanding, better support and better outcomes for all students with disability in Australian schools.

