



FACT SHEET: Year 7 to Secondary

Catholic Education South Australia has made a strategic decision to implement a phased transition of Year 7s from a primary to a secondary setting over the next 5 years. This means that Year 6 will become the final year of primary schooling. Year 7 will become the first year of secondary schooling.

This phased transition will occur in 2019-20 for the majority of Catholic schools. There will, however, be some exceptions including:

- Country primary schools where there is no Catholic secondary school nearby
- Catholic schools where middle schooling structures already exist or are planned
- Catholic schools that are co-located with other schools offering Year 7 in a primary context
- Other local and exceptional circumstances.

Why move Year 7 to secondary?

This decision has not been made lightly. It is primarily about best meeting the learning and social and emotional needs of young people.

Placing Year 7 in a secondary setting, with greater access to specialist teachers and facilities, will better position students to benefit from the variety, intellectual challenges and age-appropriate support that adolescents need during this important time in their lives.

There are also benefits for students in aligning with other states and territories. With Queensland and Western Australia recently making the move, SA is the only Australian jurisdiction where Year 7 remains in primary. Even within SA, 48% of Catholic school Year 7 students are already in middle schools or colleges. Other non-government schools have already placed Year 7 in secondary or have plans to do so.

The experience of parents and students in other schools who have recently made this move has been overwhelmingly positive.

What is the next step?

During 2016 further intense research will be undertaken in a small number of contexts to identify the local benefits and challenges for those specific schools.

This research will form the basis of further work to be undertaken in support of local parents and to ensure the wellbeing of local primary and secondary schools.

There is a significant body of work to be done before any transition arrangements occur.

How and when will this impact my school?

Every school situation is unique. We will be taking a planned and phased approach and we expect that most schools will implement this change in 2019-20.

Be assured that we will continue to keep you informed and updated as plans progress. Your child's education and wellbeing will be at the heart of all decision making.

Do I need to contact the secondary school where my child is enrolled?

No. At this stage – you do not need to contact the school. However, you may wish to begin to discuss these plans with your primary school child as you deem appropriate.

How do I find out more?

If you have any questions please discuss them with your principal.