Notre Dame
COLLEGE

Year 7, 2026

Knight Street Campus Map

NORTH SIDE

A Ursula Frayne Library
B Student Reception
C College Reception
D Mother Ignatius Starkie Hall
E Sacred Heart Hall
F St Brendan's Catholic Church

SOUTH SIDE

G Bishop Joe Grech Centre
> Jennings / Mungovan classrooms
> Science classes

H St Colman's Centre
> MacKillop / McGann classrooms
> Wellbeing Support Service
> Learning Diversity

I Marian Centre
> Kennedy classrooms
> Art / Textiles / Media classes

J Br Ray Martin Centre
> Crane classrooms
> Cooking classes

K Canteen
L Notebook Service Centre
M Mercy Centennial Stadium
N Chisholm Trade Skills Centre
O Marist Technology Centre
> Wood/Metal classes

Welcome

We're excited to have you join our community – a place where you'll learn, grow, and make many lasting memories.

We understand that starting at a new school can feel both exciting and a little overwhelming, but know that you are not alone. Our teachers, staff, and fellow students are here to support you every step of the way.

This year brings endless opportunities: explore new subjects, make friends, and uncover your unique talents and passions. Embrace challenges, ask questions, and celebrate every achievement—big or small. School isn't just about textbooks and exams; it's about building connections, sharing ideas, and helping each other succeed. Together, we can make the year truly amazing.

Get ready for an incredible journey of discovery.
We can't wait to make your first year
at Notre Dame College unforgettable!

Pastoral Care

COLLEGE HOUSES

Upon entering Notre Dame College, every student is assigned to a House. This House will become "home" at the College and provides a foundation for pastoral care.

We have six houses each of which is named after a significant person in the College's history: Crane (red), Kennedy (green), Jennings (blue), Mungovan (purple), McGann (orange) and MacKillop (yellow). House leadership consists of a Junior Head of House in Year 7 and 8, a Head of Community in Year 9 at Emmaus, and a Senior Head of House in Year 10-12.

PASTORAL GROUP

Each student is allocated to a Pastoral Group. Pastoral Groups meet every morning before classes commence. Each group has a small number of students of the same year level and house and is led by a Pastoral Group Leader (teacher). Pastoral Group Leaders support the academic progress and wellbeing of each of the students within their Pastoral Group.

Each House has two Pastoral Groups per year level. Regular House Assemblies are conducted to share information and celebrate student achievements, while House-based activities (such as lunchtime sports) provide opportunities for students to interact and have fun!

PRIMARY CONTACTS

Your Pastoral Group Leader and Head of House are your initial points of contact if you have any questions or concerns or would like to share information regarding your child. Contact may be made via SEQTA direct messages.

HOUSE ALLOCATION

Students are allocated to Houses based on the following criteria:

>Placement of any current siblings at the College into the same House

>Transition information provided by the Grade 6 teacher

>Learning Diversity needs and supports required

>Balancing of gender, academic ability, and experience in Catholic schools

Wellbeing Support Service

Caring for the wellness of our students underpins everything that we do, because we recognise that when young people feel safe, respected and valued, their personal growth and academic success flourishes.

The College Wellbeing Support service are here to listen and provide support. Our dedicated service is free and confidential and can support students with a wide range of different concerns. We aim to work flexibly with students. This means we might see some students once, and other students for four-six sessions. Our sessions are usually held during class time. Students are allocated to a member of the Wellbeing Support Service during our weekly meeting, and we will reply to emails or referrals as soon as we are able to respond.

Our team works with families and staff to ensure that students are receiving the right care for their individual circumstances. Once your Wellbeing Support person has an understanding of a student's concerns, they may need to refer them to an external support such as a family doctor or Headspace. However, they will speak with the student about this before taking any action.

MAKING AN APPOINTMENT

Students can contact the Wellbeing Support Service by emailing the Wellbeing Team at wellbeing@notredame.vic.edu.au or by speaking with their Head of House (HoH). Alternately, parents can do this on their child's behalf. In any situation, students' participation is voluntary.

Year 7 Camp

Year 7 students embark on a compulary two night camp within the first few weeks of the school year, where they undertake a series of fun and challenging outdoor activities. The camp, held at Lady Northcote Discovery Camp outside Bacchus Marsh, aims to build confidence and kick-start new friendships. Students will also connect with their Pastoral Group Leader and Head of House throughout their time away.

ADVENTURE AWAITS

Lady Northcote Discovery Camp is an adventure camp with a wide range of activities for the students to do, including archery, giant swing, high ropes, low ropes, mountain bike riding and canoeing. Accommodation at the camp is in cabins.

Sustainability

Notre Dame College prioritises sustainable operations including respect for and protection of our natural and built environments.

For every student at the school this means:
> taking pride in and looking after our school grounds and facilities,
> minimising and responsible disposing of waste,
> being considerate users of resources

THRIFT SHOP

Second-hand uniform supplies and general fashion items are available through the student-run Terra Tomodachi Thrift Shop, open each Wednesday from 3.15-4.15pm. Donations of second-hand school or fashion items are gratefully received and can be left during office hours at Knight Street reception.

TERRA TOMODACHI (EARTH FRIENDS)

Students are always welcome to join our sustainability team known as Terra Tomodachi (Earth Friends). Terra Tomodachi meets every two weeks to plan sustainability-based projects at the College, learn more about sustainability in our local community and connect with students from other schools keen to make a difference to our planet.

General Information

ARRIVING LATE TO SCHOOL

Pastoral group starts at 8.50am at Knight Street and the first class starts at 9.05am.

> If arriving after the start of Pastoral Group, but before the start of Lesson 1, students must go straight to Pastoral Group

> If arriving after the start of Lesson 1, they must sign in at Student Reception before going to class

Students are required to bring a note from their parent/guardian explaining why they are late, containing student name, date, reason/medical certificate. Students who arrive late to school without a note may receive a lunchtime detention.

BEING ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

You will need to notify the College. You can do this using one of the following methods:

> On the SEQTA app > absences

> Send an email to absences@notredame.vic.edu.au

> Phone our Absence Line on 5822 8400 *before 9am*

> Provide a note when your child returns to school

You will be notified daily of any unexplained absences by SMS. Remember! Every day counts.

SICK OR INJURED

Your child ***MUST NOT*** to contact parents/guardians directly – Student Reception staff will do this.

> In class: They should inform their teacher, who will sign their planner and send them to Student Reception

> Out of class: They should go to Student Reception, where they will be assessed by our staff

NEEDING TO LEAVE EARLY

Students must have a signed note from their parent/guardian requesting to leave school at a specific time. This note also needs to contain the reason for this early departure. This note should contain student name, date, time of departure/return and reason. Students should have their note signed by their Head of House before Pastoral Group. At the time they need to leave, your child should show their signed leave pass to their classroom teacher. They should then go to Student Reception, hand the note to the Student Reception staff and sign out using the kiosk. You can meet your child out the front of the College.

OUT OF UNIFORM

Write and sign a note for your child. They should take your note downstairs in the Bishop Joe Grech building before Pastoral Group to receive their uniform pass. They should carry this pass all day and show it to teachers as requested. Out of uniform days are always communicated ahead of time. On these days students are welcome to wear casual clothes to school. However, there are some requirements they need to be aware of:

> *Clothing needs to be appropriate and safe*
> *Covered shoes are still required*
> *Broad-brimmed hats are still required in Term 1 and 4*

LOST PROPERTY

Lost property is located at Student Reception. All items of school uniform should be clearly labeled with student's name so lost items can be returned.

BRINGING VALUABLES TO SCHOOL

Large sums of money, jewellery and other items of value should not be brought to school. Money and other valuables should always be stored in a locked locker. The College takes no responsibility for any loss of personal property.

BELL TIMES AT KNIGHT STREET CAMPUS

Warning bell 8:45am
Pastoral Group 8:50am – 9:05am
Lesson 1 9:05am – 9:55am
Lesson 2 9:55am – 10:45am
Recess 10:45am – 11:15am
Warning bell 11:10am
Lesson 3 11:15am – 12:05pm
Lesson 4 12:05pm – 12:55pm
Lunch 12:55pm – 1:35pm
Warning bell 1:30pm
Lesson 5 1:35pm – 2:25pm
Lesson 6 2:25pm – 3:15pm

These times may differ on certain days in the school year to allow for assemblies and whole school Mass.

Travelling To and From School

BICYCLES

Students riding to school must lock their bike in the bike racks provided on South Side. They must remember to walk their bike while on College grounds and when crossing at the lights on Knight Street. Students are responsible for ensuring that they follow all state laws regarding road rules and the wearing of a helmet.

BUS TRAVEL

From 2026, all students under 18 can travel free on local and country school buses. A Youth myki card is required for local buses. More information is available via the Transport Victoria website.

Students are expected to move directly from their bus into College grounds when they arrive in the morning. When on the bus, they are expected to follow all rules and expectations communicated by the bus company. After school, they should wait safely and sensibly for their bus on Skene Street.

School Bus routes and further information regarding bus travel can be found on our website.

SCHOOL DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP

Knight Street and surrounding areas are very busy after school finishes. Parents are asked to arrange suitable pickup points.

Students must not be collected from:

> Skene Street between Knight and Nixon Streets
> in front of the corner shop
> the church carpark
> St Brendan's church grounds

MOBILE PHONE USE AT SCHOOL

All student mobile phones are to be switched off and stored in locked lockers between the first and last bells of the day. Any phone seen during school hours will be confiscated. If students need to make contact with their parent/guardian during the school day, they can do so through Student Reception. Inappropriate use of mobile phones, especially to bully, intimidate or harass others, can have serious consequences including police involvement. Please note that the use of mobile phone hotspots to connect to the Internet while at school is in breach of the ICT User Agreement.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Support

Across all year levels, learning and teaching is enhanced by the provision of a one-to-one laptop programme which is supported by the resources and expertise of the ICT Team.

When students receive their laptops at the beginning of Year 7, they will read and agree to the College's Acceptable User Agreement. Students are to bring their laptop to school each day with the battery fully charged. If your notebook runs out of charge during the school day (even though fully charged it the night before), there are charging stations in the Library that can be accessed during recess and lunchtime. If students use this facility, they are to remain with their laptop and only use it during this time for schoolwork. Students can also ask their teacher for permission to collect a battery pack from the Notebook Service Centre (NSC) – they will sign the student planner to allow this.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT - NOTEBOOK SERVICE CENTRE

Students can access the Notebook Service Centre (NSC) before school, at recess, lunchtime or after school. If this is not possible, they can ask their classroom teacher for permission to attend during class time – the teacher will sign the student's planner to allow them to go. If students have an issue with software, they should send an email to nsc@notredame.vic.edu.au for remote support. They can do this during class time, but they should make sure they check with their teacher first.

HOTSPOTS

Notre Dame College provides internet access to all students via the school servers. The use of personal hotspots can interfere with the signals from these servers and impact the effectiveness of internet connectivity for everyone. Therefore, students are not permitted to use personal hotspots while at school. If students are experiencing issues with connectivity, they should see the Notebook Service Centre.

Ursula Frayne Library

The Ursula Frayne Library is located at the Knight Street Campus, North Side. (Refer to campus map)

When students come to the library, they should:

> Remember that it is a community space and that we treat all staff and students with kindness and respect

> Consume or leave any food and drink (other than water) outside the library

> Make sure they have their planner signed by their teacher if they are coming from class

> Bring their student ID card with them for easier borrowing. We have many places to study, engage with learning opportunities or kick back with a great read

The Library is open Monday to Thursday 8:00am until 4:30pm and Friday 8:00am until 3:15pm. These times include recess and lunch.
Students in Year 7 may borrow up to seven items.

ONLINE ACCESS TO LIBRARY CATALOGUE AND DIGITAL RESOURCES

The library website offers access to a host of online information and resources. The Library Catalogue (a digital reflection of our physical titles) can also be reached through the college website.

The Canteen

From 2026 the canteen will be located on the South Side of the Knight Street Campus. (Refer to campus map)

The canteen is open at recess and lunchtime. Students can order their lunch in the morning by placing their order in the box outside the canteen or Student Reception.

Students' orders should include:
> Their full name and Pastoral Group.
> Their order (written neatly and in detail).
> The total amount of the order.
> The total amount of money included or whether they are paying by EFTPOS.

When lining up at the canteen, students are expected to be polite and respectful to other students and staff. They should wait their turn patiently and use their manners. Halal and Gluten Free items are available at the canteen. The Canteen Menu and Daily Specials Menu is available on the college website.

EFTPOS

If students are paying by EFTPOS, they must have the physical card. Contactless payments are not accepted. Please note there is a $5 minimum spend for EFTPOS.

VOLUNTEERING IN THE CANTEEN

We are always looking for volunteers! The canteen is a busy and fun environment to work in, interacting with other parents and staff whilst engaging with our wonderful students. Volunteers work with the Canteen Manager and Assistant on a roster basis (that suits their availability). Volunteers are needed between the hours of 10am - 1.30pm each day. You will be required to complete a 'volunteer' Working with Children Check (which is quick and free, and link is available on the canteen page of the College website).

Year 7 Subjects

As a student in Year 7 you will experience a range of subjects from each of the Learning Areas. You will undertake seven core subjects, as well as experience each of the subjects from the Arts and Technology Learning Areas, studying one Arts and one Technology subject each term.

Subjects studied for the whole year

- *> Religious Education*
- *> English*
- *> Mathematics*
- *> Science*
- *> Health & Physical Education*
- *> The Humanities*
- *> Language (Italian or Japanese)*

Subjects studied for one term each

- *> Drama*
- *> Media Arts*
- *> Music*
- *> Visual Arts*
- *> Digital Technology*
- *> Food*
- *> Metal/Wood*
- *> Textiles*

Core Subjects studied for the whole year

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

With our theme of Church (Ecclesia) running throughout the year, you begin by looking at the concept of Belonging and what it means to belong to the Notre Dame College community. You go on to look more broadly at how we belong to God, focusing on how we fit into the overarching Christian story through Sacraments, Prayer and Old Testament stories in the Bible.

ENGLISH

English is at the core of the curriculum because it enables you to become an effective communicator in an increasingly connected world. You are expected to complete a collection of original pieces of writing, write regularly, read and respond to texts studied in class and at home, and prepare and present oral presentations.

MATHEMATICS

Year 7 Mathematics focuses on the development of mathematical skills. You can fill gaps in your background knowledge and have the opportunity to accelerate your learning up to a Year 10 level. The course has a focus on mathematical competencies, and includes development of skills such as problem solving, understanding, reasoning and application of mathematical knowledge. Mathematics topics include Number and Algebra, Space and Measurement, Statistics and Probability. In the classroom, you are tested at your current level of understanding across the curriculum. This is done so that your education program is tailored to your needs. In class, you and your teacher work together in regular learning cycles to increase math skills. There is an emphasis on your development and growth, with effort and accuracy being a focus. You are exposed to a variety of explicit teaching and self-directed learning.

SCIENCE

Semester One involves theoretical and practical studies in Introduction to Science (safety and equipment) and States of Matter and Separation Techniques. You investigate the safe use of laboratory equipment and the techniques associated with separating mixtures and solutions. Semester Two involves theoretical and practical studies in Forces, Classification and Ecology. You plan and conduct a scientific investigation on parachutes to test different forces before exploring the benefits of classifying organisms and understanding the important role of ecosystems. You are assessed using a range of assessment tasks and progressive feedback is provided on SEQTA.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course aims to introduce and develop knowledge and skills in a variety of team sports, such as basketball, netball, soccer, soft lacrosse, softball, European handball, table tennis, minor games and individual sports, such as athletics. The health component involves lessons covering bullying, respectful relationships, mental health and wellbeing, risk taking and strategies to improve these.

HUMANITIES

Humanities is the study of Business and Economics, Civics and Citizenship, Geography and History. In Semester One you explore the history of Egypt and Australia. You also complete topics that help you understand the nature of Australia's values linked to citizenship. You conduct research and investigation and you build on interpretation, analysis and evaluation skills. In Semester Two you will complete topics which will help you understand the nature of water as a resource and how Australia manages the different needs for its limited water supplies. You will also develop an understanding of economic choices and decisions. Through your studies you will begin to develop research and investigation skills as well as the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate information.

Students will study either Italian or Japanese for the whole year

ITALIAN

You are expected to develop your awareness of the language, gain further insight into the culture of Italy, and appreciate the ways in which the language and culture interact. At this level you introduce yourself, greet and farewell others using the appropriate register and reproduce modelled use of language. You are developing habits that will lead to effective learning behaviour, including study routines, following instructions, time management, planning, prioritising, and positive self-talk.

JAPANESE

You are expected to develop an awareness of simple grammatical structures of the language. You will demonstrate an ability to read and write Japanese Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji. You will develop your oral and listening skills and appreciate the ways in which the culture and language interact. You develop your ability to manage your learning by identifying and using strategies that assist with study and by completing tasks within set time frames. You begin to develop an appreciation for Japanese culture.

Technology one subject studied each term

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

You plan and manage individual and team projects with some autonomy. You consider ways of managing the exchange of ideas, tasks and files, and techniques for monitoring progress and feedback. You will be introduced to digital devices and their uses. Over the term, you will have the opportunity to construct simple digital devices.

FOOD

You will get a "taste" of Food through production and theory classes. The aim is for you to investigate the kitchen and its utensils, equipment and appliances, develop skills in safe and hygienic preparation, cooking and serving of foods, and create healthy food items each week. You will complete a practical assessment to make Energy Fruit Muffins.

METAL/WOOD

During this introductory course you will be exposed to a number of production techniques. You will learn how a variety of hand tools are used and will have the opportunity to demonstrate your new skills. You will investigate materials, including how they are sourced and used.

TEXTILES

Technology Textiles aims to have you develop your knowledge and skills using a variety of tools, materials and production techniques. The correct use of tools, equipment and relevant safety precautions are emphasised. Design forms an integral part of Technology. As well as developing your manual skills, you will develop skills of investigation, design, production and evaluation.

The Arts one subject studied each term

DRAMA

You explore different ways to express yourself. Your key learning focus is developing fundamental acting skills such as vocal expression, facial expression, gestures and body movement. Through participating in class activities, you learn to improvise, create and sustain characters. You work collaboratively with fellow students to prepare and present performances. You participate in ongoing reflection and self-evaluation throughout the term.

MUSIC

Throughout this subject, you develop your individual instrumental skills and ensemble musicianship. In particular, you learn about beat and rhythm, develop your listening and aural skills and write basic music notation. You then apply these skills to playing the keyboard, ukulele and various percussion instruments and perform to the class. You will also explore different music styles to encourage an appreciation for all music and complete a listening diary to record your understandings and reflections.

VISUAL ARTS

You will explore a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional media which might include drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and modelling. Using the basic Elements of Art, you will create and convey ideas and feelings in visual form. This course encourages you to express and explain your own individual preferences for particular artworks and styles.

MEDIA ARTS

Media Arts is an introduction to Media studies with a focus on photography and the construction of digital images. You begin by analysing a variety of media forms and reflecting on the role that the media plays in your life. You study and apply the six basic photography composition techniques in practice. You present and reflect on your own work as well as analyse the photography work of other artists. You also have the opportunity to create your own media products using digital imaging techniques. Here you develop and refine media production skills using technical and symbolic design elements and the interplay of images and text within an original film poster and advertising product. You develop an understanding of structure, intent, character, settings and genre-specific conventions in your media artworks and explore design intent for specific audiences.

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