



# Welcome to Even Start

Contact our Registrar

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**St Philip's  
Christian College**  
FOR THE WHOLE OF LIFE



## About Even Start

At St Philip's Christian College Gosford, we have a mission to provide excellence and inclusion in our educational program. As part of our offering, we provide a specialised mainstream class called "Even Start". The benefit of our Even Start Class is that it is a mainstream class which is set up for lower sensory, noise and stimulation, as well as providing small group teaching and support, allowing students additional time to develop conceptual skills using multisensory programs, concrete materials and visual strategies.

## Who is the Even Start Program For

This selective Year One and Year Two Even Start program caters for up to twelve students who may be experiencing mild social, emotional or developmental delays or learning differences. It is a mainstream class which is designed to give a more supported start to education for students who are expected to transition into the larger mainstream class by Year Three.



## Our Mission

That St Philip's Christian College Gosford will continue to provide quality education in a caring, secure and challenging learning environment based on Christian beliefs, values and practice.

## Our Vision

- Every student develops a personal faith in Jesus Christ and is empowered to live with purpose, integrity and joy.
- Every student enjoys a safe and secure learning environment wherein they feel connected and affirmed.
- Every student has access to excellent learning resources and is taught in the best learning facilities we can provide.



## Our Core Values

- Christ first
- Serve One Another - we want to appreciate the unique God-given potential of each person.
- Strive for Excellence - we want to aim to do our very best all the time.
- Do What is Right - we want to always behave in a Christian manner.
- Build Community - we want everyone to feel they belong.



# Learning Focus in Even Start

The focus is on learning strategies to engage in positive classroom experiences, as well as sensory and visual supports. The curriculum closely follows the Stage One classes, so that the children can transition in and out of the mainstream classes smoothly. Mixing into the mainstream is the key, so that they are continuously practicing behaviours alongside typically developing peers.

All students in the Even Start class will participate in all Junior School Chapels, most excursions with their grade peers, and will be provided additional MultiLit Intervention if needed.



# Sister Classes

It is the aim of this program to provide learning techniques and tools for selected students, to better prepare them to join the standardised education program of the College. The students can make this transition at any time in this Year One to Year Two program. Progression, concerns, and potential for movement into mainstream classes are regularly discussed with families and collaborative decisions are made with staff. The expectation is that students will be able to increase their involvement in their sister class as they develop through Stage One, with the hope of being almost full time in the sister class by the end of Year Two. During the first year in this program, we would hope that all students in Even Start are spending some time in their sister class, particularly in subject areas which are personal strength areas for each student. As we all know, these learning challenges can change and evolve rapidly in young students, especially with external therapies, additional supports and provisions. Even Start is not a guarantee to a seamless transition into mainstream classes but with our monitoring and progress, we aim to be able to better assist families in working with the needs of their child in these foundational years of education.



# Enrolment in Even Start

As it is a mainstream class, rather than a Special Education class, entry into Even Start is offered under a standard enrolment contract with standard terms and conditions. To be successful in the Even Start class, as with our other standard classes, students will need to demonstrate that they can strive to obtain their own personal best results in each aspect of the College's academic program and to behave in a manner which allows for the learning of others. With a slightly higher staff to student ratio in the Even Start classroom, reasonable additional adjustments will be put in place to support all students to achieve success in their academic endeavours.





## Application Process

When students are enrolled, parents will sign a standard contract with the same terms and conditions which are relevant to all students enrolled in our College. However, in order to ensure that we have a clear understanding of each child's needs and we are able to cater for them, the enrolment process for Even Start is slightly more involved and may include:

- provision of all possible documentation to support the application
- consultation with external providers
- observations in both current learning settings and our College
- an interview

This thorough process helps us to get know your child and to ascertain whether the Even Start program is likely to help your child to thrive in the early years of schooling. The College will communicate with parents throughout each step of the process regarding their child's suitability for this program.

# What Happens After Year Two?

Students in this program have places in the mainstream Year Three cohort if this is deemed appropriate to their progress. Families, with the provision of information from the Even Start staff, have choice around continuation of enrolment with St Philip's and ongoing advice will be provided to the parents as to how well the child is managing in the larger class environment. There is no exclusion process or reapplication required if progression with St Philip's is chosen. Please note that there is no Even Start style equivalent for Year Three and above. If the child is deemed to be unable to move into the larger mainstream class by the end of Year Two, parents will be supported to apply for alternate options outside of St Philip's Christian College, Gosford.

If, at any time in the progression of a student through Even Start, families decide there is a need for a student to look for learning alternatives away from St Philip's, standard notice of withdrawal needs to be communicated, in accordance with the enrolment contract terms and conditions. St Philip's Christian Education Foundation Ltd also has the option of our Dynamic Learning College at Gosford. St Philip's Christian College Gosford can help make this introduction for enrolment enquiry. There are specialised criteria for places which will be outlined by the registrar of Dynamic Learning College and this is a separate enrolment process.

