

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How are students selected for the HAWKE class?

Students are selected for Project HAWKE using a multiple-criterion approach:

- High stanine results from the Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGAT); a multiple-choice assessment that measures reasoning skills and aims to understand how students process language, phrases, numbers, pictures, shapes, and patterns.
- High band results in NAPLAN
- High stanine results in the Progressive Age Test (PAT) or other similar standardised academic assessment
- Achievement in school-based reports against subject-specific syllabus outcomes
- Student learning behaviours

A small panel of teachers and industry professionals experienced in Gifted Education will review the results from each of the criterion and make a decision of suitability for individual students for the HAWKE class.

Q. Is my child the right fit for Project HAWKE?

Project HAWKE is looking for high ability and high potential students who are looking to be extended and enriched across a range of subject areas. Students entering Project HAWKE will most likely display learning behaviours that include a well-developed memory, preference for independent learning and fast-paced instruction, high levels of reasoning, and are able to learn rapidly. These students often display a mature sense of humour, curiosity, have multiple interests, and are immersion learners. They will be able to demonstrate a willingness to extend their skills into a range of different competencies.

Q. Will my child still be enriched outside of Project HAWKE?

Yes! Our highly trained and experienced Middle School staff will continue to support and extend the needs of each student throughout the College in a variety of interest areas. This includes equal opportunity to participate in the Creative and Performing Arts, sports programs, chapels and assemblies, inter and intra-school competitions, and much more. The students will remain in their core HAWKE class for most subjects and will integrate with other students in their year group in some subjects, such as Sport and Technological and Applied Studies (TAS).

Q. What if my child has strengths and weaknesses?

All children have strengths and weaknesses. Project HAWKE aims to examine the learning qualities and academic abilities of each student in order to best extend and enrich their learning. If your child is excited about learning and challenging themselves, we encourage them to apply to see if Project HAWKE is the right fit for them.

Q. What will the testing involve?

Project HAWKE is looking at how students think. The entrance examination involves the Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGAT), which is a widely used selective class/school placement test. The CoGAT is a group-administered aptitude test that assesses a child's learned reasoning and problem-solving abilities over three different cognitive domains: verbal, quantitative and non-verbal. As the CoGAT is not based on facts and assesses how your child does on things that are new to them, it is impossible to study for the CoGAT. The results of the CoGAT examination will be shared with families regardless if they have been offered a position within the HAWKE program.

The NAPLAN and PAT tests provide valuable data of individual student achievement against benchmarked academic norms for a child in their year group and are often performed at set times of the calendar year. Together, the data from these assessments is triangulated to provide a thorough perspective on how individual students think and reason.

Q. What subjects will my child study in the HAWKE program?

The HAWKE program follows a standard Stage 4 curriculum as required by New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA), which is overseen by the College Director of Studies and Instructional Leadership Team. Students will study the same topics, units and subjects as other students at SPCC, such as English, Mathematics, History, Geography, Science, PDHPE, Mandatory Technology, Christian Life Studies, Music, and Visual Arts. As a stage-based class, students will cycle through some subjects such as Project-Based Learning and Languages Other than English on a two-year cycle, however, Mathematics is taught in a linear path by year group. As with all other Stage 4 students at the College, Project HAWKE students will have the opportunity to experience subject-specific teachers and integrate with other classes and students in subjects that are not taught by the core teacher.

Q. Is there a cap on class numbers?

Some Stage 4 practical subjects, such as Mandatory Technology, Music, and Visual Arts, demand smaller class sizes in the learning spaces. Therefore, a cap of 28 students is placed on all Middle School classes. The HAWKE program will operate within these parameters.

Q. Can my child apply for Year 8 Project HAWKE if they are already enrolled in Year 7 at St Philips and have not previously applied?

The preferred entry point for Project HAWKE is Year 7.

As Project HAWKE is a staged-based class, students will cycle through different content and some subject areas over a two-year period. If a student completes Year 7 at SPCC and then enters the HAWKE class in Year 8, they run the risk of repeating some subjects or topics taught the previous year, or missing out on some completely, depending on where in the cycle the student enters. Students who are new to SPCC also run the risk of repeating subject content, which may happen in any year group or stage.

Q. How will the program be delivered?

Project HAWKE is a dynamic, fast paced program taught primarily by a core teacher with post-graduate qualifications in Gifted Education. The content can be compacted, extended and suited to the specific learning needs of the students. The learning process, creative products, depth of content and differentiated learning environment will be shifted to suit the needs of Project HAWKE students year to year.

Q. Will my child miss out on additional opportunities or benefits if they are unsuccessful in their application to the HAWKE program?

No. All students at SPCC regardless of class are offered the same opportunities to participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular subjects and activities. This may include opportunities to try out for College representative teams in academic, creative or sporting competitions, as well as participate in online competitions such as the ICAS assessments. All students will have equal opportunity to apply for these activities, however, some competitions are dependent on suitability and ability of the students and may involve a selection criteria. All classroom teachers are required to differentiate the curriculum for students, including providing extension and enrichment opportunities for each subject they teach.

Q. How do I apply?

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
<p>Complete the HAWKE application form from the school's website, or call the office to arrange one to be posted or emailed:</p> <p>Website: https://www.spcc.nsw.edu.au/gosford/our-school/middle-school/programs/hawke.</p> <p>Phone: 02 4331 4400</p>	<p>Complete the application form by the due date and return the form, with all required documentation and payment to:</p> <p>SPCC 20 Narara Creek Rd Narara NSW 2250 andrea.burkill@spcc.nsw.edu.au .</p> <p>Applications due Friday 3rd April, 2020 to be eligible for first round testing.</p> <p>Applications due Friday 12th June, 2020 to be eligible for second round testing.</p>	<p>Students will be shortlisted and offered to sit the selective HAWKE examination, that will be held at the College on Wednesday 8th April or Wednesday 24th June, 2020.</p>	<p>Students will be mailed their results and notified if they have been successful for the 2021 Project HAWKE class before the end of Term 2, or earlier.</p>	<p>If a position in Project HAWKE 2021 has been offered, successful applicants who are not currently enrolled at SPCC will need to complete a SPCC College enrolment application form. An enrolment interview will take place shortly afterwards.</p>