



MERCY
REGIONAL COLLEGE





Learning to Care, Caring to Learn

In the Spirit of the Gospels we commit ourselves to the core values of community, inclusiveness, learning, care, justice and mercy, excellence and achievement.

Community

Through the Mercy tradition we promote the uniqueness of the community and its heritage.

Inclusiveness

Through the Mercy tradition we welcome and celebrate individual differences.

Learning

Through the Mercy tradition we encourage our community to seek knowledge, to nurture curiosity and to love learning.

Care

Through the Mercy tradition we commit ourselves to caring for each other.

Justice and Mercy

Through the Mercy tradition we seek to act with love, fairness, tolerance and compassion to all.

Excellence and Achievement

Through the Mercy tradition we support, acknowledge and strive for personal excellence and achievement.

Welcome

Mercy Regional College sits proudly as a leading Catholic co-educational secondary school in Victoria's South West. Our Year 7 and 8 students are accommodated at the O'Keeffe Campus, Noorat; this campus is named after Monsignor O'Keeffe, an early parish priest of Terang. Our Year 9 - 12 students attend the McAuley Campus, Camperdown; this campus is named after Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy.

Our students are outstanding examples of the holistic education that a Catholic school can provide. Each day, it is a delight for me to walk through either campus and be greeted by young men and women who exemplify the College core values of community, inclusiveness, learning, care, justice and mercy, and excellence and achievement.

A remarkable feature of Mercy Regional College is the ownership that all in our College community have for the school. Reflecting its origins as a College that was founded by passionate local Catholic families, this spirit remains alive and abundant in school activities such as the Athletics and Swimming Carnivals, Presentation Ball, Year 12 Graduation Mass and Final Day Assembly, O'Keeffe Campus Special Person's Day and community support for our annual Car Raffle.

Yet, at the heart of every school, must be an absolute commitment to quality learning and teaching and I believe that each staff member at Mercy Regional College harbours such passion. Our teachers actively seek the ideas, wisdom and feedback of their peers within an educational environment that values life-long learning. They are passionate about learning, individual growth and their specialised curriculum areas and wish to ignite a similar passion in those they teach.

Ms Sharon Gillett
PRINCIPAL



Educating the Whole Person

'I have come that you may have life, and have it in abundance' (John 10:10)

Mercy Regional College serves the four parishes of Camperdown, Terang, Mortlake and Timboon.

As a Catholic school, the life and words of Jesus Christ provide inspiration for all that we offer but, in essence, our work is to provide a holistic educational environment that allows students to flourish.

We seek to provide a spiritual and liturgical environment that enhances the Catholic identity of each in our community - students, staff and families - through Religious Education classes, prayer, works of social justice as well as class and whole school liturgical celebrations.

The College celebrates twin heritages:

- The founding parishes whose families and clergy gave rise to Catholic Regional College in 1973; and
- The Sisters of Mercy whose leadership and service was instrumental in Catholic schools across our district for many decades.

Our Religious Education program is based on the diocesan Awakenings curriculum which engages students at their level of personal and spiritual development and challenges them to reflect on life and our world through the lens of the Catholic faith tradition.



A Vision for Learning and Teaching

The core business of Mercy Regional College is to provide an outstanding learning and teaching environment.

The greatest asset of Mercy Regional College is its professional, passionate and innovative teaching staff; they are committed to personalised learning, constantly adapting teaching pedagogy and curriculum resources to meet the individual needs of each student in their class.

Years 7 and 8

During their first two years of secondary education, all students complete a number of core subjects including Religious Education, English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, French, and Health and Physical Education. In addition, they have the opportunity of experiencing more specialised areas such as Materials and Food Technology, STEAM, Drama, Music and Visual Arts.

Years 9 and 10

During Years 9 and 10, students continue to deepen their knowledge and skills in the core subjects as well as begin to make choices according to their individual interests and talents. Year 9 students may choose 4 Semester electives from a list of 15 electives. Year 10 students are able to start their Senior studies early with Unit 1 and 2 Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) and Vocational Education Training (VET) alternatives. If an early VCE is not preferable, we also provide a pathway where students can further develop their skills and knowledge by selecting subject specific units that can prepare them for Year 11.

Years 11 and 12

The size of Mercy Regional College allows most subjects within the VCE to be offered while students are able to access VET units through the College as well as off-site. We have been delighted with the success of our Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) classes and the pathways they provide for students into further education, employment, apprenticeships and traineeships.





Personalised Learning

The College Mission Statement calls all in our community to support, acknowledge and strive for personal excellence and achievement.

Our classrooms are centres of innovation, engagement, creativity and fun with students challenged to learn and grow, to improve and question. Our teachers differentiate learning and assessment tasks so that students are engaged and therefore capable of individual excellence.

At Mercy Regional College, all students and staff are self-reflective, confident and resilient in their learning. Our learning environments make visible and celebrate both collaborative and independent learning.

Mercy Regional College takes particular pride in the resources that are offered to students who are in need of extra support or enhanced learning opportunities. Many of our classes include Learning Support Officers who work closely with our teaching staff to provide specialised assistance to students either one-on-one or within the normal learning environment.

The College is committed to providing a range of opportunities for students to excel. These include dedicated experiences for high-achieving students where they are challenged to collaborate and problem-solve; involvement in debating and oratory competitions in school and across the state; a growing emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) as well as the College's Performing Arts program.



The O'Keeffe Campus

At Mercy Regional College, we recognise the fundamental importance of the transition between primary school and secondary school for students. In many cases, students will be moving to a much larger community with new friendships to be formed and new learning processes and subjects to be negotiated.

Our O'Keeffe Campus is the home of all Year 7 and 8 students at the College and is located at Noorat, 6 kilometres north of Terang. Within the smaller environs of a dedicated campus, the opportunities to make new friends, engage with teachers and subjects, and be involved with a range of extracurricular activities are enhanced.

The O'Keeffe Campus includes eight contemporary learning spaces as well as a library and specialised facilities for Visual and Performing Arts, Materials and Food Technology, Science as well as our transdisciplinary STEAM learning.

Our Year 7 and 8 students travel to the College's McAuley Campus around ten times a year for whole school assemblies, Masses, sports days and for celebrations to ensure they are part of the wider College community.

Mercy Regional College is privileged to be part of the Hampden Catholic Schools Network (HCSN) which includes the local parish primary schools of St Patrick's, St Thomas' and St Colman's. As well as providing the opportunities for students to meet and socialise while in primary school, the network provides invaluable background on the needs of students ahead of their transition to secondary education. We also work closely with our State Primary School partners to support the transition of students coming from State Primary Schools.

Pathways to the Future

At Mercy Regional College, we recognise that excellence and achievement can be accomplished in many fields; with the goals and dreams of some students lying in the opportunities provided by vocational education, apprenticeships, traineeships and the world of work.

If you are a student who prefers hands-on learning or likes to work independently, Mercy Regional College offers programs of applied learning in Years 9 and 10 as well as the more formal VCAL and VET programs in Years 11 and 12.

Through a program of applied learning, students will focus intensively on vocational studies, typically Literacy, Numeracy, Personal Development and Work Related Skills. In addition, students have the opportunity of completing a VET qualification and/or a work placement. Students can extend this work placement into a formal School Based Apprenticeship if the chance arises.

Over the past 10 years, our VCAL students have had great success in achieving reliable pathways into trades, apprenticeships, traineeships and employment.



Student Wellbeing

At Mercy Regional College, we strive to ensure that each student feels known, connected and cared for while developing key contemporary personal skills such as resilience, empathy and tolerance. We believe that each person is sacred. Created in the image and likeness of God, they are entitled to the very best programs available in pastoral care, student empowerment and leadership.

Connectedness and personal growth are essential aspects of adolescent wellbeing. At Mercy Regional College we place priority on students undertaking most Year 7 to 10 subjects in their homeroom groups. Our Mercy Merits commendation program recognises positive behaviours, encouraging and acknowledging students who strive for personal growth. Personal growth at Mercy is demonstrated through students displaying a positive attitude towards their learning, their peers, their teachers, and the Mercy community. Mercy Merits program encourages student involvement in various aspects of our school community and the wider community and contributes towards the aggregate MacLeod Shield house award.

Mercy Regional College has an outstanding group of staff dedicated to student wellbeing, with opportunities for individual support available to students across both campuses through our wellbeing team. The College also has close ties to other professional organisations in our local communities.

An important feature of holistic education is growing students' capacity to lead, to speak in public and to serve those less fortunate than themselves. Mercy Regional College offers opportunities for students to be involved in decision making through Student Voice and to grow their leadership capacity through homeroom classes, year levels and the Student Leadership Team.





Sport and the Outdoors

Students at Mercy Regional College have opportunities to participate and compete in a vast range of sports. Amongst those offered within the College and through interschool competitions are AFL and AFLW, Soccer, Netball, Cricket, Athletics, Basketball, Table Tennis, Swimming, Cross-country, Shooting, Equestrian, Golf and Chess.

Mercy Regional College is proud of its reputation for participation and success in our region. This is reflected in the number of students who represent the College at regional and state level events. Health and Physical Education features prominently in our school curriculum with students able to choose electives such as Athletic Peak Performance and Peak Performance in Football in Years 9 and 10.

Enthusiastic athletes are able to participate in the Sport 4 Life program. This is an adolescent specific athletic development program designed to improve a student's speed, mobility, agility, coordination, balance and power. The program is based on world best practice when it comes to the appropriate approach to improve athletic qualities in teens.

Students with a passion for the outdoors and environmental studies are offered electives in Agriculture in Years 9 and 10. With a focus on agronomy, students visit local farms and businesses. They then have the opportunity to study VCE Agriculture and Horticulture Studies in their senior years. VCE Outdoor and Environmental Studies is offered to students in Years 10, 11 and 12, where the curriculum includes excursions in scuba-diving, surfing, bush walking, rock climbing, mountain biking and alpine sports.

At Mercy Regional College, we recognise that there is great capacity for learning and teaching beyond the classroom and traditional school environments, with students undertaking a range of experiential learning through camps and retreats; these include:

- Year 7 camp at Cape Bridgewater
- Year 8 camp at Princetown
- Year 9 Melbourne Experience
- Year 10 Retreat at Anglesea
- Year 11 Pathways experience in Geelong and Melbourne
- Year 12 Retreat
- Biennial Middle School Central Australia trip
- Biennial Battlefields tour to the Western Front in Europe



In our Local Communities

On her deathbed, Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy is renowned for saying, “Take care of the Sisters, after I have gone, be sure to have a good cup of tea ready for them”. This good cup of tea has come to define one of the core values of the Sisters of Mercy, that is, hospitality.

As a school affiliated with Mercy Education Limited, Mercy Regional College is defined by its hospitality to those in our school community and our capacity to go out and enjoy a cup of tea with those beyond the school, in our local communities.

Students at Mercy Regional College are deeply involved in their local communities representing the College with distinction across a range of functions and endeavours; these include local ANZAC and Remembrance Day ceremonies, Corangamite Shire Youth Council, Lions Youth of the Year competitions, the Building Resilience in Corangamite Kids (BRICKs) program, Camperdown Uniting Church Community Lunch and many others.

Our College is proudly regional and each of our communities sees Mercy Regional College students at large in activities such as work experience, Christian Outreach, supporting local parishes and their primary schools and assisting our St Vincent de Paul Conferences. Within the curriculum, students are encouraged to explore the rich history of our district through domain-based and cross-curricular activities.

Students passionate about social justice also have the opportunities to venture further afield through immersion experiences with local Indigenous communities in the Kimberley or working with local communities in Cambodia.

Mercy in Action

*There are things the poor prize more highly than gold,
tho' they cost the donor nothing;
among these are the kind word,
the gentle, compassionate look,
and the patient hearing of their sorrows.*

Catherine McAuley,
Founder of the Sisters of Mercy

As a Catholic school, the challenge of the Gospels to bring good news to the poor and marginalised is ever present; it is a challenge that is reflected in a number of the College's core values: compassion, care, justice and mercy, inclusiveness.

Mercy is not a passive word, it is active. It calls all those who espouse it to action. At Mercy Regional College, students are given many opportunities to bring mercy into action. They are challenged to 'embrace the Other', to live out Jesus' demand to love one's neighbour as oneself. These opportunities for social justice and action include:

- Christian Outreach in our local communities
- Social Justice groups at both campuses
- Regional social justice forums
- Awareness and fundraising initiatives across a range of issues
- Working with students from other Mercy Colleges in social justice endeavours and events



Contemporary Learning Facilities

At Mercy Regional College students have the opportunity to enjoy some of the finest and most contemporary learning facilities in South West regional Victoria.

Our facilities include:

- Dedicated Senior School and Middle School buildings comprising of new classrooms filled with natural light and flexible in their floor plans;
- A dedicated Junior campus in a rural setting;
- 4 Science Laboratories;
- Food Technology rooms and a fully equipped and functioning Commercial Kitchen;
- A dedicated STEAM facility on our Junior campus;
- Modern Learning Resource centres at both campuses;
- Creative and innovative Art, Design and Technology spaces;
- A Stadium that can be transformed into an assembly space on our Senior campus;
- New breakout spaces to aid independent and collaborative student activities

Mercy Regional College is committed to utilising the most effective and engaging digital technologies to support students' learning. All students use an Apple MacBook as their principal digital device; these devices are supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure, the College's intranet and our excellent IT support staff.



Learning to Care,
Caring to Learn





MERCY
REGIONAL COLLEGE



McAuley Campus

Henderson Street, Camperdown
Victoria 3260

Telephone: 03 5593 2011

Facsimile: 03 5593 3941

O'Keeffe Campus

McKinnons Bridge Road, Noorat
Victoria 3265

Telephone: 03 5592 5353

Email: office@mercy.vic.edu.au

Website: www.mercy.vic.edu.au