

SUBJECT SELECTION HANDBOOK



ST TERESA'S
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

*inspiring a life-long
love of learning*

2026

Year 9



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Introduction

St Teresa's Catholic College is committed to creating a dynamic and supportive learning environment where students are provided with opportunities to realise their potential and pursue their aspirations.

Students in Year 9 consolidate their foundational learning through participation in subjects and courses that develop skill sets designed to set them up to succeed as independent, self-directed and motivated learners who are able to engage collaboratively with their peers to produce meaningful and relevant products of their learning.

Over the coming year, students will be challenged to begin considering their future pathway options and determine where their personal strengths, gifts and talents best sit within the framework of a plan for their senior years of education.

This handbook is designed to assist Year 8 students to make decisions about elective courses of study for Year 9. It contains relevant information pertaining to curriculum structures and courses that will be offered in 2026.

Curriculum Structures

In Year 9 all students will study a total of eight (8) courses each semester (6 core + 2 elective).

The structure of the curriculum offerings for Year 9 for 2026 will be as follows:

Full Year Core Courses (Studied for two full semesters by all students)

Students will study 6 compulsory 'core' courses in Year 9 for a full year.

- English
- Religious Education
- Mathematics
- Science
- PE
- Humanities (History and Geography)

These courses will all be delivered within the guidelines of the ACARA National Curriculum and Brisbane Catholic Education syllabus documents.

Elective Courses

In 2026 the Year 9 Elective Course Program will be represented by a selection of semester-long units of work.

Choosing Elective Subjects

Students are encouraged to keep their options open and experience a range of subjects to ensure that they experience the full range of opportunities available throughout Year 9.

Before making any decisions regarding the choice of Elective Subjects, please consider carefully the information that is presented in this Handbook. More specific information is available from the respective Curriculum Leader and subject teachers.

It is recommended that students select subjects that they enjoy and in which they have a genuine interest.

The Subject Selection Process

Students are required to choose six (6) preferences for their Elective Subjects for 2026.

This is made up of four preferred courses:

- Two for Semester 1 AND
- Two for Semester 2 AND
- Two reserve choices.

Every effort is made to accommodate students' subject choices, however, some subject combinations may not be possible. It is for this reason that we ask students to nominate two extra choices as reserves.

Although all subjects are offered, on occasions there may not be viable numbers for a class (or a second class) to run within the timetable structure of the College. In such instances, we will refer to students' fifth and sixth preferences – as such, it is important to only choose subjects as preferences which you wish to be considered for.

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS OFFERED IN 2026

Half Year (Semester based) Elective Options



Humanities and Social Sciences

Economics & Business

Young Queenslanders in the 21st century need to be:

- innovators
- entrepreneurs
- lifelong learners
- responsible global citizens.

Therefore, the Year 9 Economics and Business course develop an understanding of the effects of decisions made by consumers, workers, businesses and governments on individuals, households and markets as a whole.

Students will be able to:

- Join the 100k Entrepreneur Classroom Project – an eco-friendly business initiative involving Year 9 students to create a business classroom worth eventually 100k.
- Undertake creating a start-up business individually or in pairs to plan and develop a product/service, identify a target audience and determine strategies to market and sell their product/service online and at ‘live test’ opportunities. All revenue from sales goes to the students’ business except for identified charity days.
- Meet and talk to local and national business owners to gain valuable insight into the world of entrepreneurship.
- Explain the importance of managing financial risks and rewards and analyse the different strategies that may be used.
- Explain why businesses seek to create a competitive advantage and evaluate the strategies that may be used.
- Complete Google Digital Garage modules to attain certification in the ‘Fundamentals of Digital Marketing’
- Review the business on completion of the course and determine lessons learnt for potential future businesses.



Design Construction

The practical wood workshop skills developed early in this course will provide a foundation for students to design their own project work and make a finished product. A range of tools and equipment will be used and design thinking skills to produce a solution to an identified need. A key focus is safety, which allows students to learn techniques safely that they then apply to produce their design ideas.

Design Graphics

Year 9 students will be taught how to professionally sketch simple 2D drawings for communicating design information. Aspects of basic 3D sketching and drawing will also be explored. Artistic techniques for presenting drawings and using basic CAD for drawing ideas will provide useful practical skills for any design situation.

Design Textiles

In Year 9 Textiles, students will learn how to transform creative ideas into wearable designs. This hands-on course introduces essential sewing skills and clothing construction techniques, empowering students to design and make their own garments. Using the design process, students will develop problem solving and critical thinking skills while expressing their personal style. The course also explores sustainable sewing practices, encouraging students to make environmentally responsible choices in both their projects and everyday lives.

Digital Technologies

In Digital Technologies, students learn about algorithms, computer languages and user interfaces through generating digital solutions to problems. Students develop skills in creating code using, Circuit Python, that have real-world applications. Students will program microcontrollers (Circuit Playground Express). They will use sensors to collect, display the information and use that information to control servos and motors.

Food Technology: Global Cuisines

In Year 9 Food Technology, students will set off on a culinary adventure, discovering the diverse cooking methods and techniques of various cultures. The course follows a historical timeline of changes in Australian food, starting from traditional Bush foods to the influences brought by migration and fusion foods. Students will explore how these global cuisines have shaped Australian food culture. This practical course equips students with essential cooking skills and food preparation methods, enabling them to create dishes from a range of global cuisines. Throughout this journey, students will enhance their problem solving and critical thinking abilities while showcasing their culinary creativity.



Languages

French

The Year 9 French course offers students an opportunity to further their French language abilities through a wide range of hands-on learning activities and assessments, including cooking, drama and role play, excursions, travel planning and creating short movies. Learners are immersed in the language and culture of the Francophone world. Students can choose to study French for one semester or for a full year. Both options prepare learners for the Year 10 French Foundation course, ensuring they are confident in communicating, understanding key grammar concepts, and navigating real-world scenarios.



The Arts

Dance

This unit provides an exciting foundation for practical learning and advanced creative thinking, suitable for all abilities. Focusing on the genres of Jazz and Contemporary, students will engage in technique workshops to develop rhythm, coordination, expression, and disciplined technique. Students will also learn choreographic elements and dance appreciation and will apply their skills in whole class activities, small group performances and in the development of their own dance compositions. Students will have an opportunity to present their work to a new, live audience, either at a dance eisteddfod or an Arts performance night, depending on the semester.

Drama

Year 9 Drama is a practical and collaborative course that helps students build confidence, develop performance skills, and explore creative storytelling. It's well suited to students who enjoy working as part of a group, thinking imaginatively, and expressing ideas through voice, movement, and staging.

In the semester course, students will focus on **Children's Theatre**, a performance style designed to engage and entertain young audiences. As part of this unit, students will:

- Learn about the key techniques used in theatre for children, including expressive movement, vocal clarity, and audience interaction.
- Work in small groups to adapt a classic fairy-tale, using the original story as a stimulus for devised performance.
- Rehearse and refine their work as an ensemble, while also considering the use of and creating their own costumes, props, and scenery.
- Develop an understanding of how to shape a performance for a specific audience – in this case, primary school students.

The unit will conclude with a live performance to a local primary school audience, giving students a chance to apply their skills in a real-world setting. Throughout the course, students will continue to build their communication, collaboration, and creative thinking skills.

Media Arts

Year 9 Media Arts provides students with the fundamental skills, learning and experience to create their own media content that both expresses meaning and impacts an audience. Students have access to filming equipment, a laptop of their own and the editing software Final Cut Pro X to help learn essential production techniques through a series of engaging film activities. During Term 1 students will focus on film genres, filming iconic scenes from the western, romantic comedy, fantasy, thriller and superhero genres. In Term 2, students will learn how to create both shock and suspense, exploring the art of jump scares and Hitchcock's "Bomb Theory", before creating their own suspenseful short film. During the course, students will also develop analytical skills by studying mise-en-scène, cinematography, and representations, helping them to create visually meaningful works. They will evaluate how and why media artists across cultures, times and places use media arts concepts to represent and challenge ideas, perspectives and meaning. This course will provide students with the tools and knowledge to bring their storytelling vision to life.

Music

The Year 9 Music course is all about helping students grow as musicians and boost their confidence as performers. We dive into the history of Australian Popular Music, discovering its unique sounds and cultural significance and use our knowledge to create and perform our own pieces of music as well as performing iconic Australian music. We'll also explore the exciting world of film music, learning how it enhances storytelling and evokes emotions. Students will get hands-on experience with arrange of musical instrument and multimedia technology to create their own original film soundtrack recordings. This course is designed to give students the tools and confidence to express themselves through music by continuing to develop their music literacy, aural, composition and performance skills.

Visual Arts

In Year 9 Visual Art, students deepen their understanding of art making through two engaging and hands-on units. This semester-long course encourages creative exploration, critical thinking, and personal expression, aligned with the Australian Curriculum: Visual Arts, which emphasises developing and refining techniques, responding to artworks, and exploring meaning through visual language.

The first unit, **Art as Activism**, introduces students to the power of visual art in addressing social issues. Students explore protest art and symbolism, primarily using acrylic paint. They are encouraged to experiment with alternative materials and surfaces, with many choosing to create impactful works on a canvas or skateboard deck. This unit fosters awareness of contemporary issues and the role of artists as change-makers.

The second unit, **Introduction to Hand built Ceramics**, allows students to explore sculptural form and texture. They respond to the work of a contemporary ceramic artist, developing their own clay pieces using hand building techniques. This unit promotes tactile engagement and an appreciation for three-dimensional design.

Both artworks will be exhibited at the **St Teresa's Arts Showcase**, accompanied by a student-written artist statement that reflects on their creative process and intent.

This subject is ideal for students who enjoy making, thinking, and expressing ideas visually.