



GENAZZANO
FCJ COLLEGE

Junior School Handbook

Ready to take
on tomorrow.

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The Genazzano FCJ College campus is situated on Cotham Road, Kew, just west of its junction with Burke Road, and is easily accessed from many suburbs.


The College is located within magnificent grounds. This beautiful environment provides an abundance of space for our students to explore and discover.

You can contact the College on +61 3 8862 1000.

We invite you to come and experience the Genazzano FCJ College difference. Register your attendance for one of our Open Mornings. Visit genazzano.vic.edu.au/book-tour



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Welcome to Genazzano.

Welcome to the Genazzano FCJ College Junior School. We are a Catholic school community built upon the core values of excellence, dignity, justice, companionship, hope and gentleness. These help us to see life as a gift to be shared through companionship with God, creation and one another.



Our learning program promotes the growth of every girl, especially through relationships that encourage the full flourishing of self and one another. Our teachers, from Prep to Year 6, have a great capacity to engage every girl in the wonder and awe of learning. They inspire the girls to explore, discover, question and be curious. Our all-girls' learning environment provides a safe, enjoyable, happy and nurturing place for every girl to shine.

The Junior School years are fundamental in building courage and confidence in learning whilst laying the foundations of lifelong learning that is enjoyable, engaging and stimulating. With the gift of an education at the Genazzano FCJ College Junior School, you give your daughter an abundance of opportunities where she will be fully supported on her learning journey.

Anita Kelliher
– Dean of Junior School

Our Mission

Holistic development.

Genazzano FCJ College lives its vision through embracing the talents, potential and dignity of each person.

We achieve this by:

- Appreciating the unique giftedness of each other
- Confidently innovating and adapting to embrace a changing world as active lifelong learners
- Creating global citizens who understand and embrace the differences of others to promote a peaceful world
- Engaging with others with a positive, respectful and loving attitude; and
- Identifying student needs through rigorous assessment so that their potential is maximised.

Our hope is that through God's grace working in us all, and with compassion, each young person grows into their best self, with a zest for life and the generosity and confidence to use their talents and gifts in the service of others.

The Vision in Action: Our Graduate Attributes

We seek to find God in all things by exercising three qualities:

- Reflection
- Wisdom
- Service

Reflection

We model discipline to reflect on what might be best so as to develop the character and competence of our young women to become artists, creators and intellectuals.

Wisdom

We model the capacity to place things in perspective and discern what might be right and good, while also appreciating different viewpoints.

We develop the character and competence of our young women to become visionaries, inquirers and innovators.

Service

We model the commitment to walk alongside others and serve them selflessly so as to develop the character and competence of our young women to become leaders, champions and peacemakers.

These three Ignatian insights inform six areas of action we cherish as a Catholic College founded by the Society of the Faithful Companions of Jesus.



Our Vision

Overarching philosophy.

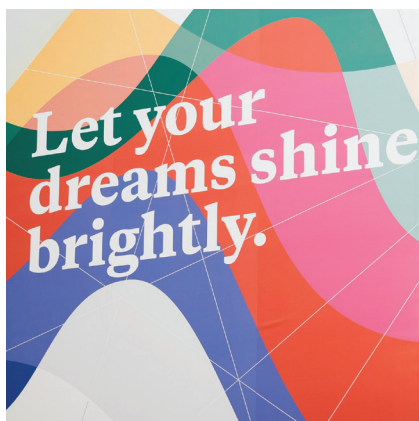
Our vision is for the 'full flourishing' of each student in the Junior School – a holistic approach to the physical, emotional, social, academic and spiritual development of all learners.

Our students act with integrity, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, taking responsibility for their actions and consequences.

The learning environment is stimulating and challenging for every girl, designed to meet each student at her point of need. Learning programs address the key literacies and are targeted to individual needs at the appropriate time, giving students the confidence and knowledge to progress their learning. Staff use evidence and data to plan the next steps for each student, knowing each one grows and develops in her own time.

Students are supported to become communicators, thinkers and inquirers, empowered to take an active role in their learning. With an open mind students set goals, pose questions and pursue areas of interest to become risk takers and reflective learners.

We value local and global learning partnerships that provide students with the opportunity to work together, promoting empathy and honesty.



Faith & Mission

Our source of inspiration.

The particular emphasis on faith and mission at Genazzano flows from a strong sense of Catholic identity and the FCJ Charism (spiritual gift). Faith education at Genazzano is informed by three core values: a passion for life, a love of learning, and the courage and confidence to lead and serve others.

The inspirational foundress of the Sisters FCJ, the Venerable Marie Madeleine d'Houet, was a woman for our time. Her great faith gifted her with the courage and confidence that was the basis of her life's work, and the work of all the Sisters – past, present and future – who continue to respond as women to the call of those in need.

In the spirit of Marie Madeleine, the College seeks to create a caring atmosphere where all can find a place and feel at home. Ever mindful of our Ignatian intellectual and spiritual heritage, Genazzano encourages students to view the world with kindness and curiosity. With a real and meaningful commitment to sharing the importance of social justice, Genazzano prepares students for the world beyond the College gates where they can be valuable members of the community; both local and global.

Companionship is central to the FCJ philosophy of education, being expressed through faithfulness, gentleness and respect. In the Ignatian tradition, the College encourages students to look to find God in all things – teaching an attentiveness together with a prompt responsiveness to God, who is constantly active in our lives.

Genazzano seeks to be a nurturer of life and a joyful messenger of hope and love, preparing our students for a life of leadership in the wider community.



“Our graduates will be seen as women of contemplation, competence, compassion, and commitment.”

Our Junior School

Quality learning and teaching.

Is Hope-Filled:

The Catholic understanding of the diversity, dignity and uniqueness of each student is valued and honoured in the learning process and staff actively seek to know each student deeply. The belief that every student can learn is central to the way we design for learning and each student is supported to find her strengths and meet her challenges in a positive manner.

Is Student-Driven:

Students are at the centre of all learning experiences that are designed to meet them at their point of need informed by data, both qualitative and quantitative. Student agency in learning is explicitly sought and used to support the planning and enactment of curriculum. Multiple opportunities for forward focused feedback are created between teacher to student, student to student and family to student.

Is Engaging:

Students are stimulated and challenged by the learning experiences planned with and for them. The classroom environment is a happy and nurturing one that enables students to embrace learning with energy and passion, and is responsive to their diversity and interests.

Supports Questioning and Metacognition:

Students are supported and enabled to engage with and ask deep questions through explicit teaching and the modelling of a life-long learning disposition. Students are supported to think critically and creatively about the world around them and their place within it. They are seen as active learners who can question, critique, reflect, dialogue and collaborate.

Supports Risk-Taking:

Staff intentionally create an environment where students are supported to take risks, make mistakes and continually reflect on themselves as learners and their growth as learners.

Values Learning Partnerships:

The staff value the unique contribution each family makes to the learning of their daughter and provide multiple and diverse opportunities for families to engage in the learning that occurs at school.



Flow Theory

Challenging students.



Flow Theory is premised on the belief that learning best occurs when students engage in activities that are at the peak of their abilities, when they have to work to their full potential to accomplish a task.

Under the guidance of noted psychologist, Dr Judith Paphazy, the Junior School team have been researching and implementing pedagogical practices that actively promote Flow Theory in the classroom. Flow Theory is based on the work of Mihalyi Csikszentmihalyi, and has roots in Performance Psychology.

Teachers in the Junior School strive to create learning environments that are challenging for all students, and in which students are intrinsically motivated to learn and feel good about learning. Genazzano is one of the first schools in Australia to apply Flow Theory to early childhood education.



Curriculum framework.

Curriculum in the Junior School is designed to engage students in rich learning experiences where evidence based pedagogies are used to support student learning across a diverse range of subject areas.

The Victorian Curriculum and the Religious Education Frameworks for the Archdiocese of Melbourne are used to inform planning and drive learning and teaching as student interests and passions are sparked and used as a springboard for learning.

Each day begins with a Literacy block during which reading, writing, speaking and listening are the key foci. These key literacies form the basis of all learning and our goal is for all students to leave the Junior School as skilled readers, writers, speakers and listeners. A Mathematics block is a core element of every day, when students investigate the strands of Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability, building their understanding and confidence in how numbers work and their application to our everyday lives.

In the Junior School, students have the opportunity to explore the broader curriculum through the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (PYP). The PYP program addresses areas such as History, Geography, Health, Civics and Citizenship and Religious Education and learning revolves around a central concept, as outlined in the Victorian Curriculum; an idea that is important to us no matter our age or stage of life. A unit of work may focus on the concept of belonging, and this may be explored through a number of lenses – What does it mean to belong to my local community? (Civics and Citizenship), How can I belong to the family of God? (Religious Education), What is the story of my own family? (History), How are animals classified? (Science). In Prep to Year 4, Inquiry learning encompasses

Science and in Years 5 and 6, Science is a specialist subject. Ten Learner Profile attributes, a key feature of the PYP program, are also explored. Students are encouraged to identify the key attributes that they apply during the learning. For example, researcher, balanced, communicator, collaborator...

Digital Technologies are used extensively across the curriculum and offer our students diverse opportunities for finding out about our world, developing specific skills in the use of different technologies, and for expressing their learning and understanding in creative and innovative ways. The Digital and Creative Technologies curriculums are woven into each subject the students learn in purposeful and authentic ways, building skills and confidence.

The students in the Junior School are engaged in a range of specialist subject areas. For students in Prep to Year 4, the specialist subjects include Physical Education, including Swimming, Music, Instrumental Music, Creative Arts, Performance Arts, Information Literacy and Chinese and Italian languages. Years 5 and 6 also have these specialist subjects with the addition of Science. These curriculum areas offer students a chance to discover new areas of learning, use many of the specialised facilities within the College and ensure a comprehensive and stimulating Junior School educational program.

“Student interests and passions are sparked and used as a springboard for learning.”

GenSTAR

Wellbeing Program.

GenSTAR is a whole school wellbeing program that enables students to develop resilience, think for peak performance, and develop skills for a safe, healthy and positive approach to life.

The Program is underpinned by the principles and research from performance psychology and positive education, and is carefully sequenced to ensure that it is appropriate for students’ age and stage of development.

GenSTAR is part of the Junior School students’ program each week and focuses on developing their social and emotional wellbeing. The program is facilitated by classroom teachers with the support of the Performance Psychology Team at the College. The program aims to cover a broad range of content that assists students to develop an awareness of their own wellbeing and how they can nurture it. Topics covered may include developing a healthy self-esteem, caring for my body, managing friendships, cyber-safety, managing my emotions and respecting myself and others.

S	Strategy
T	Thinking
A	Action
R	Reflection





Our Community

Our Parent Associations.

Community is at the heart of Genazzano and continues to enrich the lives of families long after their daughter has graduated.

“The Genazzano family is incredibly diverse. This extends to the wide variety of associations that provide parents, friends and past students the chance to be involved with, or remain connected to the College.”

Parent associations and committees are an important part of the Genazzano community, ensuring students are supported and given every opportunity.

At Genazzano we have two parent groups, the Genazzano Mothers' Association (GMA) and the Genazzano Fathers' Association (GFA). We believe in making a difference to, and enriching, the relationship between parents and daughters. These Associations are an integral part of our College community, through the leveraging of parent skills, knowledge, experience, resources and network opportunities.

Each group supports the College, the students and the wider community through celebratory events such as GenWelcomes, GMA Ball, GFA football lunch, Christmas carols and community walk.

New parents to the College will be invited to these groups of the GMA and GFA in the parent portal and will receive notifications for upcoming opportunities and events.

We know you will find our community a unique point of difference and one that will create an unparalleled richness to you and your family's life. We look forward to welcoming you as a parent to the Genazzano community.



GenConnect

Supporting excellence.

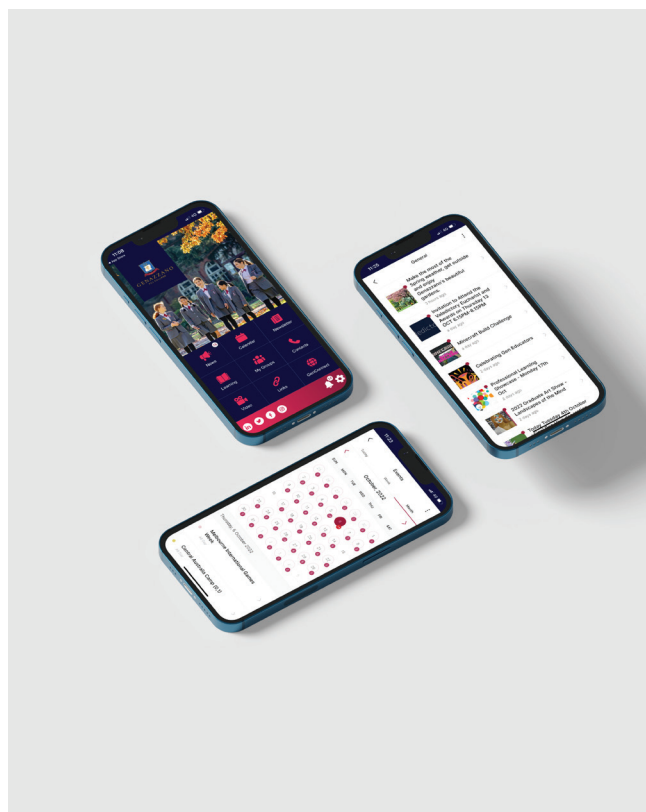
GenConnect has been developed as the central learning platform for the Genazzano FCJ College community. It provides an online environment that enables communication, learning opportunities and collaboration.

A major feature of the platform is its sophisticated notification system, enabling the delivery of crucial information such as student assessment, College news and events delivered via email and mobile push notifications. Parents can customise these notifications to their preferred options, from delivery types to the receiving of messages.

GenConnect provides the connection necessary for families in the daily organisation; this includes online payments, managing personal details, the College calendar, policies and electronic forms.

The platform also connects the community to many other groups within the College including the Mothers' and Fathers' Associations, co-curricular programs, sporting and music groups. Through this platform these groups will keep you informed via news and notifications.

“GenConnect is the hub that transports the Genazzano community online, keeps students and parents informed and supports the high level of excellence in learning that the College has to offer.”





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