



Mandurah Catholic College, Western Australia

About us

We are a large, co-educational, prep–12 Catholic college located in the coastal city of Mandurah, Western Australia, approximately 72km south of Perth.

Our approach

We have adopted a range of strategies under a five-year plan to improve student achievement in writing.

We identify students achieving a stanine or spelling age of year 1–3 in year 6 and we enrol these students in a two-period-per-week class to upskill their literacy and provide them with additional language support. We use *SoundsWrite*, Greek and Latin phonemes and subject-specific vocabulary in these classes, as well as revisit writing fundamentals such as grammar and text knowledge.

Literacy is explicitly taught within English lessons and we use the below teaching practices to drive progress in writing:

- weekly spelling tests for year 7 and 100-word assessments each semester
- weekly creative writing lessons for years 7–12 and support for students entering external writing competitions
- weekly prioritised lessons for Education Perfect (Functional Literacy) and silent reading
- use of glossaries to stimulate vocabulary development (further enhanced by our year 7 language support)
- explicit teaching and assessment of editing (including peer-editing) and proofreading skills
- trailing of D.E.A.R (Drop Everything and Read) to encourage reading in all year groups
- weekly tutoring for middle school students.

In conjunction with the Fremantle Literacy Centre, we also run intensive workshops supporting students to write either narrative or persuasive pieces and we focus on building writing confidence. The workshops serve as professional development opportunities exposing teachers to a variety of additional strategies to further encourage visual literacy and persuasive writing.

The *Education Perfect* online platform provides us with engaging activities that complement the curriculum. We conduct pre- and post-testing to measure the fundamentals of literacy – spelling, punctuation, grammar.

We use OneNote to share information in the writing program and individualise feedback for students. We particularly make use of the program's colour-coding and audio feedback features.

Reading is prioritised as an input to writing. We conduct mandated lessons in the library each fortnight and make an occasion of Book Week to celebrate writing and reading.

We share our year 7 NAPLAN data with our feeder primary schools to show them how students are tracking into high school and this helps inform their literacy and numeracy programming.

Our profile

ENROLMENTS **1,163** LBOTE **11%** INDIGENOUS **2%** ICSEA **1040**