



Mazenod College, Western Australia

About us

We are a mid-sized, metropolitan, year 7–12 Catholic boys day and residential secondary college located in East Perth, Western Australia.

Our approach

The English learning area focuses on research-informed approaches to reading, drawing primarily on the work of Margaret Merga at the University of WA.

Many of our students lack independent reading competence so our teachers dedicate time to reading aloud to their classes. We believe this promotes engagement with language, and furthermore, to texts beyond students' own level of competence, supporting them to move into their 'Zone of Proximal Development'.

Technology is used to support literacy instruction in two ways: OneNote is used by teachers to model annotation practices to support literal and inferential interpretation of texts, and ACER PAT tests are used to identify key areas of difficulty.

Our data suggests students struggle more with literal reading than inferential reading, which came as a surprise, prompting a focus on literal comprehension strategies. Our key strategies include the explicit teaching of the annotation of texts, the use of three-level questions and the use of graphic organisers to support effective reading.

We actively promote critical thinking in the reading process. The practice of 'think-alouds' is a feature of our year 7 strategies that involve students recording themselves reading and verbalising thinking at the same time. This creates a structured process that encourages students to make conscious links between the language choices of the author and the responses drawn from the reader.

We have recently created a data wall to track student achievement and progress and this is a direct outcome of our embrace of data and commitment to professional learning in this area.

Our reading approach benefits from our whole-school focus on writing that emerged some time ago in response to deficits between our students and their year 7 peers.

Our profile

ENROLMENTS **841** LBOTE **11%** INDIGENOUS **2%** ICSEA **1067**