

St Francis Xavier Middle School

Meeting the needs of adolescent learners.

- Middle Schooling refers to the practices that make formal education responsive and appropriate to the needs of young adolescents.
- Recent research shows that effective Middle Schooling programs do not result specifically from structural change.
- The focus for the middle years of schooling is on student engagement and achievement, rather than physical structures or setting up middle schools.

At St Francis Xavier Primary School, middle years' students are engaged in activities that challenge them intellectually, whilst meeting their spiritual, physical, emotional and social developmental needs.

The middle years' staff is committed to understanding the nature of contemporary adolescents, in order to encourage students' development from dependent learners to independent thinkers.

Middle School Initiatives

- ☺ Connected curriculum – topics of study encompass several subject areas
- ☺ Negotiated curriculum
 - Topics of study
 - Methods of presentation
 - Negotiated due dates
- ☺ Physical Activity incorporated into lessons and learning activities
- ☺ Learning Centres – student based learning activities
- ☺ Fine & gross motor skills such as knitting, ball games, skipping
- ☺ Conflict resolution – Peer Mediation
- ☺ English Electives – Middle School English lessons combining students from middle school levels, covering topics of study across the strands of *Speaking & Listening, Writing & Shaping, Reading & Viewing*.
- ☺ Electives Days – Hands on, interest based activities designed to challenge and motivate middle school students.