

# Exploring Middle School

We are **One**. We are **Pedare**.



**PEDARE**

# Exploring Middle School

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The Middle School at Pedare presents an exciting time in the development of independent learners, as students navigate the transition from childhood to adolescence. We understand the vital importance of providing a nurturing and supportive environment for students in the Middle Years of education.

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As students reach the Middle School, they work towards consolidation of their basic learning skills. This is a time of inquiry-based and applied learning. The appropriate use of technology is further developed through a 1 to 1 device program within the Middle School. Students become more aware of their world and channel their interests with practical and collaborative learning opportunities.

This is a time when:

- personal values and beliefs emerge and independent learning patterns are established
- students are challenged to become successful, self-motivated learners and

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develop confidence, responsibility, self-reliance and independence in their personal lives

- higher order thinking develops with teacher encouragement
- opportunities are presented for co-curricular activities that challenge previous reliance on family through camps, excursions and group projects which require commitment and accountability
- elective subjects are introduced as students begin to determine their learning preferences
- students are encouraged to develop authentic leadership skills and a sense of service to their community within the College and further afield.

The Middle School approach focusses on learning and opportunity. We foster a culture of self-directed, student-led learning – growing students to be high-capacity leaders and creative thinkers.

Strong, positive relationships are the cornerstone to learning at Pedare, with authentic community and true collaboration providing strong foundations.

Our focus is on the learner; therefore, we provide:

- core class teachers who work closely and build strong relationships with students and their families
- a broad curriculum
- service learning opportunities
- leading technology
- purpose built Middle Years STEM focussed centre for collaborative learning
- access to specialist food technology, design and technology centre and science labs
- well-equipped Sports Centre
- structured and unstructured spaces

Our expert staff allocated to the students include:

- specialist Middle Years teachers (in addition to specialist subject teachers)
- Head of Middle School
- Assistant Head of Middle School
- Community Coordinators

# Embracing change

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Pedare's vision for learning recognises that this is an age of unprecedented change. Schools today have the responsibility to prepare students to thrive by providing an environment for learning that is authentic and engaging. In this learning environment the individual interests and abilities of students are recognised, while providing choice and adapting to their learning styles, within a well-designed, and well-structured environment.

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## Strong relationships and support

A community's strength is dependent on maintaining healthy relationships and providing guidance and support when needed. The Community Coordinators support this within the Pedare community, overseeing the wellbeing of all students.

The Pastoral Care team consists of Home Group teachers, a Community Coordinator, Student Counsellors, a Chaplain and the Assistant Head of Middle School. The first point of contact between home and school is the Home Group teacher, who will ensure that all matters are followed up by the appropriate person. Parents are encouraged to work closely with their child's Home Group teacher and Community Coordinator.

We know that children learn well with encouragement, support and security. As students grow, with guidelines and expectations which provide a framework for their behaviour, they develop from a world-view centred on self and family, to one in which they look to the needs of others. Young children need clarity about what is right and wrong, and caring adults to help them when they fail to be the best they can be.

When students are engaged in the learning process they are less likely to present poor behaviour than when they are disenchanted or bored. At Pedare we strive to ensure that the curriculum is able to meet the needs of every student so that success and pride in achievement helps bring about positive behaviour.

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## A backdrop of faith

At Pedare, we understand that faith is an individual's choice, and students are presented with the Christian message of hope. During Worship, Assemblies and Christian Life lessons, faith is discussed and challenged and Bible knowledge enhanced.

Christian perspectives will appear in subjects that naturally facilitate such ideas and a Christian approach to life and relationships will permeate interactions.

# Leadership

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Throughout the College there are various leadership opportunities for students who are interested in contributing in a more active way to the well-being of their fellow students.

Pedare encourages the development of leadership in all students, who are expected to present themselves and the College to the wider community in the best possible ways, and to be models for younger students.

- Pedare Student Voice (PSV) provides a voice for the student body. Student representatives are elected from Home Groups and meet with the Community Service Captains to contribute to the leadership of the College. They serve by expressing needs and ideas for the welfare of all students. They develop leadership skills and knowledge whilst working for the betterment of others.
- Year 9 Leadership Team consists of:
  - o Two Middle School Captains who lead the team and represent the College at formal functions
  - o Two Community Service Captains who lead the Pedare Student Voice and explore opportunities for Community Service within the Middle School
  - o Ten Community Captains who work with the Community Coordinators to organise Community events

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## Daily Life at Pedare

### Daily Timetable

Students meet in their Home Room each morning at 8:35 am for a 20 min Home Group and, depending on the Calendar, may attend Worship, Community Gathering or Assembly on some days. There are 2 lessons after Home Group, followed by recess, another 3 lessons then lunch, with the final 2 lessons after lunch finishing at 3:15 pm.

### Lunchtime Activities

At lunchtime, students can play sports, visit the library or find a place to chat to friends. There are some extra-curricular activities that take place at lunch times and board games are offered. Middle School students have access to all areas of the College grounds, but are encouraged to use the facilities closest to the Middle School Building.

### Lockers and Bag Cubes

All Year 7-9 students are allocated to a locker where they are expected to keep their bag. Padlocks are provided by the College and remain the property of the College. Year 6 students will be allocated a bag cube within the Middle School building and a tote tray in their classroom.

### OHSC

Year 6 students will be able to access Pedare Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) from the start of the 2019 school year. The service will operate from 7:15 – 8:30am and 3:10 – 6:00pm during term time, and vacation care from 7:15am - 6.00pm.

### Before and After School

The Catford Library is open and supervised for Year 7-9 students from 7:45 am before school and up to 5:00 pm after school. Students are welcome to sit and relax or complete school work.

### Wattle Café

The College canteen, known as the Wattle Café is operated by Rory's School Lunches and is open at recess and lunch times. Lunches can be ordered and paid for via Qkr App, or at the Café before school. The menu is available on the College website.

### Transport

Kanga Coachlines provides a number of College Bus Services, from Collinswood, Mawson Lakes, Newton and Salisbury. Schedules are available on the College website.

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## Pedare Christian College and the International Baccalaureate

Pedare Middle School students (Years 6 to 9) follow the highly acclaimed Middle Years Programme of the International Baccalaureate Organisation.

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## Our International Baccalaureate Commitment

In line with the International Baccalaureate Mission Statement, Pedare values education that goes beyond academic development. The College encourages students to develop awareness beyond the individual and his or her immediate community.

# About the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) Middle Years Programme (MYP)

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The MYP is designed for students aged 11 to 16. It provides a framework of learning which encourages students to become creative, critical and reflective thinkers. The MYP emphasizes intellectual challenge, encouraging students to make connections between their studies in traditional subjects and to the real world. It fosters the development of skills for communication, intercultural understanding and global engagement, qualities that are essential for life in the 21st century.

*The Middle Years Programme is about preparing students to be successful in school and to be active, lifelong learners.*

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## The Learner Profile

A major feature of the MYP is the IB Learner Profile.

It describes the learning attributes or characteristics that creative, internationally minded students need to develop.

The Learner Profile aims to develop learners who are:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Risk-takers
- Balanced
- Reflective

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## Reporting

At the conclusion of Semester One & Two and written reports with grades and comments will be sent to Parents/Caregivers.

Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews take place in Terms Two and Three.

Parent/Caregiver communication is encouraged and often occurs informally via email or phone.

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## One College One Campus

In 2019 the College will consolidate its two sites into One College. A purpose built Middle School that focuses on innovative learning spaces that inspire student creativity and independent learning. State of the art facilities will ensure that Pedare is well placed for the educational needs of students into the future.

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## Curriculum and Learning

### Class structure

**Year 6:** one core class teacher; specialist teachers for languages, Arts and PE. All students do both Mandarin Chinese and German. Year 6 students do Music and Integrated Arts, incorporating Visual Arts.

**Year 7:** one main core class teacher; specialist teachers for languages, Arts, Technology and PE.

**Year 8:** dual core class teachers; specialist teachers for languages, Arts, Technology and PE.

**Year 9:** students are placed in a core class, but have a wide variety of specialist subject teachers, in preparation for Senior School. They start to choose from electives in Year 9 to focus on their strengths and interests.



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