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SMYL Community College Handbook

June 2015

Your SMYL College contacts:

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Your teacher/s:



Hello from SMYL Community College!

This handbook provides a picture of how new students become valued members of the SMYL College community. We care about each student - and we work with them to develop their personal and educational strengths to participate fully in Australian society.

SMYL Community College is for students who want to make a positive change in their life. In taking the step to enrol with us, new students are also agreeing to the SMYL program which will help them be more confident, develop essential education skills and become happy and useful young adults.

SMYL College students learn in a small and supportive environment. Learning is linked to each student's Personal Learning Plan (PLP) - a Plan the student develops based on their own interests and passions. The PLP drives a student's progress in literacy and numeracy studies as well as specialist subjects and vocational training.

Students completing the SMYL College program will graduate with the WA Certificate of Education (WACE) as well as accredited vocational qualifications.

SMYL Community College is a registered charity, a member of the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia and a registered Independent School with the WA Department of Education Services. We are also a 'Big Picture' school with a focus on individual learning plans and personal achievements.

We hope every student's time at SMYL College is full of great challenges and even greater rewards!

Tony McRae
Principal

~Happiness & Usefulness ~

SMYL Community College Aims

- To operate an independent school to meet the education and training needs of young people who are not succeeding at school because of personal, health, home and other issues;
- To build capacity and alleviate distress felt by people and communities.
- To provide inclusive and supportive opportunities for young people to progress and develop through education, training and work;



Our Ethos

We understand all young people are individuals, with their own circumstances, abilities and aspirations in life.

We support each student's:

- right to quality education and training;
- personal and social development; and,
- search for secure and rewarding work.

We will measure our efforts by how we ...

- **create a team approach to learning that links students, parents and staff on the student learning journey;**
- **deliver project-based and experiential education and training;**
- **increase self-confidence, motivation and skills in young people that results in increased participation in school and other studies; and,**
- **link SMYL CC education and training experiences with further education, training and employment.**

~Happiness & Usefulness ~

Our College Principles

The College has four Principles. These are what make our College community work which also provides each student the opportunity to learn and grow in a supportive environment.

Respect

Everyone has a right to their own beliefs, opinions and feelings. Our College is based on respect for others and understanding we can gain respect through our own actions. Developing self-respect allows us to be a unique person with talents and skills who can contribute to the lives of others – as well as to our College community.

Participation

To be a part of the College Community, we need to be *present*. This means always having a go as well as allowing others to have a go. When we join SMYL College, we make an agreement to attend classes, engage in electives and weekly excursions as well as participate in work experience and training programs.

SMYL
Community
College
Principles

Learning

There is something exciting and special about learning new knowledge, skills and abilities – as well as about ourselves! Learning gives us a sense of purpose, allows personal growth and helps us contribute to the lives of others. Our community needs all of us to be willing to learn and grow.

Safe & Legal

Everyone has the right to feel safe and valued at SMYL College. To make this possible, our College has strict rules of being drug and alcohol free and free from violence. This is everyone's responsibility and helps to build a community where differences and conflicts can be resolved with respect.

So, why join SMYL Community College?

This is the most important question to answer before applying to join us.

The College has a small intake each year and works on building strong relationships with students. This allows students, their families and staff to deal with the issues that have previously caused difficulties at school.

Our small school community provides a more personalised approach than is generally possible in a bigger school. Our staff get to know each student and to work with them individually.

We are inspired by the principles of 'Big Picture' education and the focus on student learning:

- You and your interests are unique
- Discover your passions
- Build individual learning plans with your teachers
- Learn from doing and assess your learning

Every day at College includes core school subjects as well as an Elective or an Excursion. Every part of our program is important for a student's development and progress.

We are not a drop-in centre.

The College is small and doesn't have some of the resources of large high schools - but we make up for this with our approach! We have a student kitchen, regular breaks for students and staff to work together, education and personal advisors for students to discuss the challenges all teenagers face, and we put a big emphasis on activities.

The enrolment process for SMYL Community College is not complex. When we receive an application, we discuss the student's education and personal history and if we all agree to proceed, the student will be assessed for literacy and numeracy capabilities as well as their future education and job aspirations to help develop a personal learning plan.

And then this new journey begins!



SMYL Curriculum begins with the creation of a Personal Learning Plan based on each individual student's needs. It includes interest based units, Australian curriculum subjects, a variety of endorsed programs – as well as SMYL College's program of Electives and Excursions.

Year 10

The Year 10 curriculum (the subjects and lessons) builds the capacity of students with a focus on literacy, numeracy and work readiness. We follow the Australian Curriculum and students have structured lessons in major subject areas. Students also study environmental science, history, art and physical education studies as well as the Certificate I Leadership course as preparation for future work experience and training.

Year 11 and 12

Students in Year 11 and 12 are enrolled in four core subjects of English, Mathematics, Career & Enterprise and Computing. These subjects, combined with SMYL's training and work experience programs, allow our students to graduate with a Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) or a Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA). The College also works to have students complete a School-based Traineeship (SBT) – an important step towards an apprenticeship, higher level training and future employment.

School Day

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday	Friday
8:15/30am Bus - Kwin Z/R'ham T	8:15/30am Bus - Kwin Z/R'ham T
8:25am Kitchen open	8:25am Kitchen open
9:00am Whole School Meeting	9:00am Whole School Meeting
9:15am Session 1	9:15am Session 1
10:00am Session 2	9:30am School Excursion
10:45am Break 1	
11:00am Session 3	
11:45am Session 4	
12:15pm Break 2	
12.45 pm Electives (specialist activities each day)	1:00pm Lunch
2:30 pm Finish	2:00-2:30pm Finish

Attendance

Parents/carers are asked to contact the College (9550 9400) by 9am if your child is not attending that day. A medical certificate is required for absences of three or more consecutive days. Our students are legally required by the State Government to attend school – each day.

Students will need to sign in/out if arriving or leaving outside normal times. Parental permission is required for students to leave the College.

YEAR 10

P Stage English	P Stage Mathematics	History	P Phys Ed.
Geography	Science	School Electives	
Cert I Leadership Dev.	Bushrangers Level 1	School Excursions	

YEAR 11

English 1A/1B	Maths 1A/1B	Applied Info Tech 1A/1B
Career & Enterprise 1A/1B	Phys. Ed. 1A/1B	Visual Arts 1A/1B (Option)
Certificate I GATE	School Electives	School Excursions
Workplace Learning Employability Skills 1		Bushrangers Level 2

YEAR 12

English 1C/1D	Maths 1C/1D	Applied Info Tech 1C/1D
Career & Enterprise 1C/1D	Phys. Ed. 1A/1B	Visual Arts 1A/1B (Option)
Certificate II SBT	School Electives	School Excursions
Workplace Learning Employability Skills 2		Bushrangers Level 3

Life at Our College

Students have lots more fun and make more progress when they have the support and encouragement of parents and carers – we think a student's time with us is a partnership between them, SMYL College and their family. If you know of any issues affecting your young person please let us know.

School Fees and costs – SMYL CC has very modest fees – in 2014 & 2015 these are set at \$235 per annum. Your contribution to the running costs of the school makes possible our major events such as school excursions and camp, and helps meet the costs for daily electives such as bushrangers, art, digital media, yoga, gym, etc.

Medical Information/Emergency Contact - It is vital we have current medical information and emergency contact details. Please advise us of any changes.

Medication - Students are not permitted to carry medication with them. Medications must be handed to the office and a consent form is required if the medication is to be administered during the day. Sick students will be sent home following contact with parents. Paracetamol tables can only be given with written approval.

Breakfast – A breakfast at home is the best way to start a day. The College provides a light breakfast from 8.30 to 9am and students make and help clean up the kitchen.

High Sugar & Energy Drinks, Healthy Food and Water - high sugar and energy drinks are not allowed in the College, these include Coca Cola & Pepsi, all varieties. We encourage healthy foods and strongly support students drinking fresh water throughout the day.

Bullying – Bullying, teasing or intimidation of students physically, verbally or on-line, both on and off the campus is not tolerated. Bullying has extremely harmful effects on the victim, the bully and bystanders. It has no place at our College.

Graffiti – The College looks fantastic because we encourage students to explore 'urban art' but this does not include graffiti or tagging. A great deal of money has been invested in the college campus – and graffiti has no place here.

Uniform – We have a College shirt and winter jumper available for all students. We encourage students to wear the school top each day, matched with a pair of black or navy blue pants, shorts or skirt.

Shoes –Sensible and safe footwear is essential for all outdoor activities which can include some electives and excursions.

Mobile Phones – Students have the privilege of bringing their phones to school – but they must not be used at all during class and meeting times. Students found using mobiles will be required to hand-in their phone for collection at the end of the day.

Safe and Legal – Our school is committed to maintaining a safe, secure and supportive environment. Things such as knives, weapons, permanent markers, spray cans, alcohol, tobacco, drugs or any dangerous or unlawful items are not permitted at our school.

Court Orders - If there is a court order or parent order, a copy must be supplied to the College. The College cannot accept verbal agreements concerning residence/contact of children.

Drug Free – Our College is strictly drug free. We encourage students to make the College a healthy place by providing education on drug risks (including alcohol and tobacco) and long-term harm.



SMYL Community College

All students have a right to learn and have fun in a College that is safe and welcoming.

By following our College Principles each student can learn and grow – and make a positive contribution to SMYL Community College:

- *Respect;*
- *Participation;*
- *Learning;*
- *Safe and Legal,*

Our motto is a reflection of how the experience of our College principles becomes a thing of giving and receiving:

‘Happiness and Usefulness’

