

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As a Newman Selective Gifted Education School, St John Bosco College will be accepting parent nominations for Sydney Catholic Schools Newman Identification and Selection Process for the Year 7 cohort of 2028.

Recent History

Sydney Catholic Schools initiated the *Newman Selective Gifted Education Program* in 2011, as a response to ensure educational equity for **gifted and talented** learners in both Catholic Primary and Secondary schools. The patron of the program is St John Henry Newman who was deeply committed to education and sought to combine academic excellence with spiritual and pastoral care.

Ongoing Process

As a part of the ongoing process of the Newman Identification and Selection Process, interested parents and students will be invited by their Secondary Newman school to submit a **Parent Nomination form** with a variety of information to support their placement in a Year 7 Newman Selective Gifted Education cluster for 2028. Please note: Information provided with this Parent Nomination form is any information you might have at home. If your child attends a Sydney Catholic Schools Primary School, they should be providing their evidence directly to the Newman Secondary College. If you do not have any additional information to provide with this form, then please just return the form filled in as best as possible.

Placement in a Year 7 Newman Selective cluster

- Once you accept your child's enrolment in a Newman Selective Gifted Education Secondary school, your child will have the opportunity to be nominated for a placement in the Newman Selective cohort for 2028.
- The nomination form provides an opportunity for you to submit supporting evidence that demonstrates your child's exceptional ability such as ICAS certificates or achievement in extension programs and activities, eg; University of Wollongong Early Learning Labs or UNSW Scientia Programs.
- Assessment data gathered and provided from feeder Catholic Primary schools, Department of Education schools and other schools, will be used to support the nomination, such as results from the Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) and other tests that identify gifted learners.
- Primary school Principals can recommend a child to be considered for the Newman Selective cohort on the Primary School Assessment data form.
- After submission of the nomination forms, parents will be informed of the date their child will sit the Newman Selective Assessment, designed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), which measures a child's capacity above the general ability of their population.
- The Newman Selective Panel will review the student's portfolio including the nomination form, evidence from parents, assessment data from Primary schools, the Primary school Principal's recommendation and the Newman Selective Assessment results to determine student placements in the Newman Selective classes.
- A letter will be sent to parents informing them of the outcome of their child's nomination for the Newman Selective cluster/s. At St John Bosco, there is a **Newman literacy cluster** as well as a **Newman Mathematics cluster**.

A **Parent Nomination form** for the Newman Selective cohort is **below**. Please feel free to view the **Frequently Asked Questions document** below or contact Miss Antonella Lavorato (Newman Coordinator) via email (a.lavorato002@syd.catholic.edu.au).

We would like to thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's education.

Kind regards,



Jenny Fowler
College Principal

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Newman Selective Gifted Education Program School?

A Newman Selective Gifted Education Program school seeks to provide a whole-school gifted education program embedded across the curriculum within a nurturing Catholic environment.

The program addresses the academic, social and emotional needs of gifted students, noting that these are best catered for when students are working with like-minded peers.

Within Newman Selective Gifted Education Program schools, teachers trained in gifted education deliver an appropriately differentiated curriculum to ensure the diverse learning needs of gifted students are met in and beyond the classroom.

There are over 80 Newman Selective Gifted Education Primary and Secondary schools across the Sydney Archdiocese. Pathways between our Primary and Secondary Newman Selective Gifted Education Program schools are under active development.

Newman Selective Gifted Education Program schools are comprehensively reviewed via a rigorous accreditation process. This process ensures the sustainability and continuous improvement of this high quality, research based gifted education program.

View our Newman Selective Gifted Education Program page on the SCS public website [here](#) for further details.

Which schools are involved in the Newman Selective Gifted Education Program?

All Catholic feeder primary schools to:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ OLMC, Burraneer➤ De La Salle, Caringbah➤ All Saints, Liverpool➤ St John Bosco, Engadine➤ St Patrick's, Sutherland➤ Clancy, West Hoxton➤ Good Samaritan, Hinchinbrook➤ De La Salle, Revesby➤ MSJ, Milperra➤ LaSalle, Bankstown	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ St Ursula's, Kingsgrove➤ Bethany, Hurstville➤ Marcellin, Randwick➤ Marist NS, North Sydney➤ OLSH, Kensington➤ Corpus Christi, Maroubra➤ St Clare's, Waverley➤ Mary MacKillop, Wakeley➤ Marist College, Eastwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Trinity, Auburn➤ Holy Spirit, Lakemba➤ St Vincent's Ashfield➤ Domremy, Five Dock➤ Marist Sisters', Woolwich➤ Casimir, Marrickville➤ Aquinas, Menai

What is the timeline in relation to enrollment and student placement processes within Secondary Newman Selective Gifted Education Program schools?

TIME	ACTION
Current Year (Year 5) March - May	➤ Sydney Catholic Schools Year 5 enrolment period opens
June August	➤ Secondary Newman Selective Gifted Education Program school sends enrolment offers to Year 5 parents
August - September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If the enrolment offer is accepted, parents can nominate their child to be placed in the Newman Selective class/es ➤ Parents include documents to support their child's nomination
October - December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Catholic feeder Primary schools will provide Secondary schools with relevant assessment data from the Sydney Catholic Schools K-12 database ➤ Parents whose children are from state schools may wish to collect information from their child's Primary school teacher to support their nomination
Next Year (Year 6) March - April	➤ Nominated students, now in Year 6, sit the Newman Selective Higher Ability Assessment at the Secondary school
May - July	➤ Newman Selection Panels review evidence using relevant documentation from parent nominations, Primary school assessment data and the Newman Selective Higher Ability Assessment
July - November	➤ Applicants informed by Secondary Newman Selective Gifted Education Program school of their placement in the Newman Selective cohort

How do I apply for a Secondary Newman Selective Gifted Education Program school?

All applications for enrolment to Sydney Catholic Schools are processed in accordance with the SCS Enrolment Policy. In order to apply for placement within a Newman Selective Gifted Education Program Secondary class/cohort, students must first be enrolled in the school.

Parents are encouraged to visit prospective feeder Secondary schools during Open Days or view school websites online for information relating to enrolment. If the Secondary school is a Newman Selective Gifted Education Program school, information about their program may also be available.

What documents will need to be provided in the application for enrolment to a Newman Selective Gifted Education Program Secondary school?

All Sydney Catholic schools conduct generic enrolment processes and require standard documentation as outlined in the application for enrolment. This also applies to all Newman Selective Gifted Education Program schools. Evidence of any assessment documentation pertaining to specific diverse learning needs should be submitted **as part of the general enrolment** for students in any Sydney Catholic school. If your child has educational assessments that specifically demonstrate *exceptional abilities* such as a WISC psychometric assessment or any other credible diagnostic assessment that identifies giftedness, these should be included as part of their initial application for enrolment.

Who is able to be nominated for a placement in a Secondary Newman Selective class/es?

Once your child has been enrolled in a Secondary Newman Selective Gifted Education Program school, you will be informed of an opportunity to nominate your child to apply for a placement in the Newman Selective class/es. This involves the submission of a Parent Nomination form and includes your child's participation in the Newman Selective Higher Ability Assessment.

How are the students chosen for entry into the Newman Selective class/cohort?

Students will be considered on the basis of the evidence gathered from the nomination process. This includes;

- Evidence (if any) submitted by parents with the nomination form
- Diagnostic assessment data from Primary schools eg: Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT)
- Results from the Newman Selective Higher Ability Assessment
- Principal's recommendation
- Other relevant documentation gathered during the enrolment process, eg: Psychometric assessment report

A Newman Selection Panel will be convened to determine successful applications.

It is important to note that it is not guaranteed the student will automatically be selected for a Newman class if they have come from a Primary Newman Selective Gifted Education Program school, as places may be limited in Secondary school settings.

Who is on the Newman Selection Panel?

- Secondary School Principal
- Secondary School Newman Facilitator
- Critical friends with Gifted Education qualifications
- Moderator (*member of Sydney Catholic Schools - Diverse Learning: Gifted Education Team*)

What do I need to know about the Newman Selective Higher Ability Assessment (HAST)?

The Newman Selective Higher Ability Assessment consists of four components;

ACTIVITY	TEST TYPE	DURATION (approx)
Verbal Reasoning	Multiple Choice	40 min
Quantitative Reasoning	Multiple Choice	40 min
Abstract Reasoning	Multiple Choice	40 min
Written Expression	Extended response	30 min

How do I find out the outcome of the selection process?

The Newman Selection Panel facilitates the selection process by;

- viewing evidence submitted via the nomination process (from parents, primary schools and the HAST)
- determining placement of students into a Newman Selective class/es
- informing parents by letter, the outcome of the selection process

Is my child advantaged because they are in a Primary Newman Selective Gifted Education Program school?

As stated on the application form, it is not guaranteed your child will be placed in a Newman Selective class, even if they attend a Primary Newman Selective Gifted Education Program school. Nominations will come from a number of feeder Primary schools and limited places in a Newman Selective class exist in Secondary school settings.

Are there any provisions for students who apply from Catholic Primary schools that are not in the Newman program?

All SCS schools conduct generic enrolment processes and require standard documentation as outlined in the application for enrolment, including Secondary Newman Selective Gifted Education Program schools. Students must be enrolled in a Secondary Newman school before they can be nominated for placement in a Newman Selective class. Each nomination for a placement in a Newman Selective Secondary class will be carefully considered by the Newman Selection Panel.

How can I help my child prepare for the Newman Selective Higher Ability Assessment?

The assessments are designed to measure ability rather than classroom performance. This assessment is designed to not only show what your child knows, but also what your child can do and is capable of doing.

There is nothing your child should study. It is most important they think clearly and use their ability to deal with new problems and situations to choose an answer. Sample questions can be found on the HAST Candidate Information Bulletin (2013); https://www.acer.org/files/HAST_CIB_2014_4_Test_R_W_M_A.pdf

What happens if my child is not successful in gaining a placement in a Newman Selective Secondary class?

Your child will still be enrolled in a Secondary Newman Selective Gifted Education Program school, which means they will have access to participate in a quality differentiated program across the curriculum. Teachers in Secondary Newman schools have participated in extensive professional learning in gifted education. This means they can use their differentiation expertise across a variety of classes.

The nature of the program allows for students to flexibly move across classes as updated evidence is made available.

Where can I get further information?

Please contact your local Secondary Newman Selective Gifted Education Program school for further details.



Year 7
2028

Parent
Nomination

General Instructions:

- Please complete all sections of the parent nomination form.
- If available, please attach copies of up to 3 pieces of evidence to support your child's nomination for a place in the Newman Selective Gifted Education Program (please see examples on page 2).
Please note: Evidence provided with this form is anything you might **have at home**. Please **do not contact your Sydney Catholic School Primary School for evidence** as they should be providing this directly to the Newman Secondary College
- Return this form to the Secondary Newman Selective Gifted Education Program school your child is enrolled in by 1 September 2026.

STUDENT DETAILS

Student's Name			
Date of birth dd/mm/yyyy		Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
The student's current academic year	Year/Grade:		
Student's current school			

DIVERSE LEARNING NEEDS

Does your child have any known or suspected exceptionalities, disabilities, complex social and emotional needs or other needs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If Yes, please specify:		
If your child requires adjustments, please indicate the most relevant adjustments that will be required for your child when sitting the Newman Selective Higher Ability Assessment.	Large print FM transmission Coloured paper Separate seating / front of the room Other	
If you selected 'Other', please specify;	OFFICE USE: Documentation verified by school delegate:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

PARENT'S / CAREGIVER'S DECLARATION

- I/We declare that, to the best of my/our knowledge, the information I/we have provided in this nomination form is accurate.
- I/We understand that, while our child is enrolled in a Secondary Newman Selective Gifted Education Program school, it does not guarantee our child a placement in the Newman Selective class.
- (If applicable)** I/We have attached to this form **copies of up to 3 pieces of evidence** to support our child's nomination into the Newman Selective class.

Signature Parent/Caregiver 1		Date
Signature Parent/Caregiver 2		Date

PORTFOLIO EVIDENCE:

<u>Examples</u> of SUITABLE evidence	<u>Examples</u> of what NOT to submit as evidence
<p>Copy of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ School Report showing Grade or Subject Acceleration Eg: Year 4 student who is enrolled in Year 6 ➤ Psychometric Assessment Report Eg: WISC IV, WISC V, Stanford-Binet ➤ University competition achievement Eg: UNSW International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) ➤ Other educational institution achievement Eg: Maths Olympiad, Young Scientist of the Year ➤ Participation in external extension programs Eg: UNSW Scientia Program, UOW Early Learning Labs ➤ Government Challenges achievement Eg: Premier's Reading Challenge, Debating Challenge ➤ Teacher-annotated student work sample evidencing high ability in any key learning area Eg: Piece of writing, problem-solving task ➤ <i>If a child has come from a school outside of Sydney Catholic Schools:</i> ➤ Diagnostic test results Eg: Raven's Progressive Matrices, PAT Reading, PAT Math obtained from your child's current Primary school teacher ➤ Any of the above examples 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Any original documentation ➤ Audio-visual material ➤ Thumb Drives / external hard drives ➤ 3D structures / models / frames ➤ Trophies / medals ➤ Original photos ➤ Work samples not marked or annotated by the class teacher

- Please note, copies of evidence must be included with the application on submission.
- All copies of evidence will be placed in the student's school file after the application process.