

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Early Learning Centre Closure

The following Frequently Asked Questions have been prepared to provide clarity and support regarding the closure of St Peter's Early Learning Centre (ELC).

Why is St Peter's ELC closing?

In reaching this decision the College has carefully considered:

- Over many years the demand for places in our ELC has been declining, as families are looking for long-day care and facilities that are eligible for Government support.
- The Early Childhood Sector has seen significant regulatory and quality reforms in recent years, reflecting important and necessary standards. In considering the long-term sustainability, the College has determined that its resources are best directed to its core primary and secondary offerings.

When will the Early Learning Centre close?

The Early Learning Centre will continue to operate until the end of the current school year (2026). The final day for students will be December 2, 2026. All provisions for closure will occur after this date. The ELC will continue to fully operate until this date.

Was the decision based on enrolment numbers?

While enrolment trends are one factor considered in any educational service, the decision was driven by broader strategic and operational considerations, not only enrolment numbers.

Is the ELC closing because of concerns about the quality of care?

No. The decision is not a reflection on the quality of care, education or commitment provided by our St Peter's ELC staff, who are excellent educators. The College remains deeply appreciative of the professionalism, care and dedication shown by the team.

What support will be provided to families?

The College is committed to supporting families through the transition process. Support will include:

- Advance notice allowing families time to secure alternative arrangements.
- Support and communication regarding nearby Early Learning services and placement availability.
- Opportunities to discuss individual circumstances with College staff.
- Assistance with documentation and transition information where required.

Will the College help families find alternative early learning providers?

Yes. The College will provide information about alternative early learning providers in the local area and will work with families to support a smooth transition wherever possible.

Will my son still be able to enrol at the College in the future?

Yes. The closure of St Peter's ELC does not affect the College's existing enrolment processes for Prep and beyond. The College Admissions Team will provide enrolment pathways and timelines for all families of boys in the 3-year-old kinder.

What will happen to St Peter's ELC staff?

The College recognises that this decision will have a significant impact on staff currently at the ELC. Employees impacted will be supported through a formal consultation process, consistent with College obligations and employment agreements.

Will the ELC facility be repurposed?

The current ELC operates from the St Peter's Parish facility, which has always been leased from the Melbourne Archdiocese by the College. At the end of this year, the College will conclude its leasing arrangements, and the facility will once again be available for the Archdiocese to utilise for their own purposes.

Could the decision be reversed?

The College appreciates that families may find this decision disappointing. However, following careful review, the decision has been made, and our focus is now on ensuring a smooth and supportive transition for children, families and staff.