

# Ignatius Learning Centre

Supporting young people to succeed

The Ignatius Learning Centre is a Catholic Specialist Secondary School, established by Jesuit Social Services in 2021. Drawing on our Jesuit heritage, the Ignatius Learning Centre is guided by Catholic Social Teaching, Ignatian Pedagogy, Jesuit Social Services' "Our Way of Working" and informed by evidence-based educational practice.

In its inaugural year, the Ignatius Learning Centre enrolled 26 boys who had previously disengaged from education, were facing charges in the Criminal Division of the Children's Court, and were at risk of incarceration. Following its first graduating year in 2023, the School is looking to grow and enrol new students in 2024.

The Ignatius Learning Centre provides a safe, holistic and therapeutic learning environment that promotes the education, intellectual, physical, social, emotional, cultural and spiritual development of the students. The curriculum is designed to meet the interests, needs, and goals of each student.

We aim to re-engage young people in education by providing engaging, culturally relevant, and student-centred curriculum. Our dedicated multidisciplinary team of teachers, social workers, and youth workers have years of experience engaging and educating young people with interrupted schooling (due to exclusion, time in custody or their needs not being met).

The Ignatius Learning Centre prides itself in working collaboratively with the families, carers and support networks of its students to build a strong, supportive and safe school community.

## Our vision

The Ignatius Learning Centre restores hope, offers a sense of belonging, and allows students to flourish and reach their potential by providing an education that fosters responsibility and transformation.

Through education, the School hopes to divert young people at risk of incarceration. We promote lifelong learning by providing a holistic



education that allows students to heal, learn, and succeed in a safe and supportive environment. Students are encouraged to recognise and develop their inner knowledge and skills by reflecting on experience, discernment, and making life-giving choices for themselves, others, and our world.

## Our students

Our school provides an inclusive, therapeutic educational environment for boys aged 15 to 17 years before the Criminal Division of the Children's Court.

## Who is eligible to be a student in 2024?

Students eligible for our school are males, aged 15 to 17, who are:

- disengaged or at risk of disengaging from education
- subject to sentencing under SECT 360 of the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 and able to attend the Ignatius Learning Centre
- being considered for either: Youth Control Order (YCO), Youth Attendance Order (YAO) or Youth Supervision Order (YSO), or on Remand and facing a custodial sentence
- eligible for enrolment in a Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC) / VCE Vocational Major

## Timetable

The Ignatius Learning Centre (ILC) provides a comprehensive school timetable for all students, operating from 9am – 3.30pm Monday to Friday during Victorian school terms. Importantly, the school recognises that it needs to provide flexible learning options, especially for students who may be re-entering education after a long period of disengagement or who have had negative experiences of education. What is important is that the ILC caters to the different needs of students and encourages a growth mindset that allows students to progress towards a full-time school timetable.

ILC provides a timetable of on-site schooling combined with outreach and community engagement activities that seeks to afford our students with the best possible chance to experience success and to make the most of their school education.

The timetable also has the flexibility to include community programs targeted at the development or rehabilitation of the student, if it is a requirement of a Children's Court Order overseen by Youth Justice.

## Curriculum

We offer our students two pathways for their final years of school: Victorian Certificate of Education Vocational Major (VCE VM) is a Senior Secondary Certificate and the Victorian Pathways Certificate (VPC); an inclusive foundational certificate, designed to be completed over a minimum of two years.

Students will work towards completing their Certificates; a practical option for students in Years 11 and 12 which provides work-related experience and a qualification, recognised by TAFE institutes and employers, helping students move from school into work, an apprenticeship or traineeship, further training or higher education pathways.

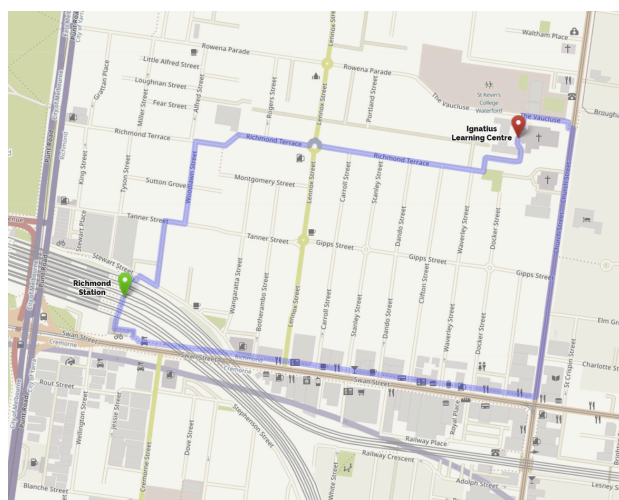
Students will cover the complete VCE VM suite:

- Literacy, Numeracy, Work Related Skills, Personal Development Skills and Vocational Educational and Training (VET) subjects.
- VCE subjects on offer (and contribute to a VPC Certificate): Psychology, Philosophy and Legal Studies
- In 2024, the VET subjects on offer are: Hospitality CERT II, Visual Arts CERT II, Creative Industries CERT II (Music), Barbering (Salon Assistant) CERT II, Sport and Recreation CERT II and Carpentry (as a component of WRS)

## About Jesuit Social Services

Jesuit Social Services is a social change organisation working to build a just society where all people can live to their full potential. We 'do' and we 'influence'. We accompany people and communities to foster and regenerate the web of relationships that sustain us all – across people, place and planet; and we work to change policies, practices, ideas and values that perpetuate inequality, prejudice and exclusion.

## Our location



**Address:** 326 Church Street, Richmond 3121 VIC

Our school is located behind St Ignatius Church (Church St, between Swan St and Bridge Road)

Closest train stations: East Richmond, West Richmond and Richmond Stations. Connect directly from Flinders Street and Southern Cross Stations, CBD.

Closest tram stop: Route 78, St Ignatius Church/Church St. The school is directly behind.

**For more information or questions about enrolment, please contact:**

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Call: 03 9421 7600

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