

In 2015, Year 7 became part of high school under the Queensland Government's Flying Start for Queensland Children program. Listed below are some responses to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the Junior Secondary transition (Year 7 into high school) at Faith Lutheran College.

What does Year 7 in high school at Faith Lutheran College look like?

In 2013 we formed a Year 7 Committee to analyse, research, audit our current practices, and explore the implications of having Year 7 at high school. The committee investigated ways to create a distinct Junior Secondary (Years 7 -9) phase of learning at Faith Lutheran. The College created a 'pod' structure whereby students worked within a trans-disciplinary approach. What this means for students in Year 7 is they will study English, Christian Studies and Humanities with concepts that unify critical skills. Mathematics, Science and Physical Education will form the second trans-disciplinary 'pod' and specific skills common to each subject area will be taught throughout the year. Continual formative assessment and observations, as well as a unifying rich task that incorporates the skills acquired, will allow teachers to monitor learning outcomes. Careful planning of our curriculum structures has allowed us to construct collaborative tasks that promote 21st Century skills, including problem solving and character building.

I have a child who will be in Year 7 in 2016 what should I do?

Please contact our enrolments officer Mrs Cheryl Pisani cpisani@faithlc.qld.edu.au to arrange a tour and an interview.

I have a child who will be in Year 7 in 2017 or beyond, what should I do?

Our Open Day is on Saturday, 20th May 2016. This would be a great day to attend to find out more about our College. In Term 4 our College will hold a Year 7 Information Evening whereby the most current information pertaining to Year 7 induction will be provided.

How many students will be enrolled in Year 7 at Faith Lutheran College?

We have the capacity to enrol a full cohort capped at 140 students. Our enrolment projections suggest an intake of approximately 140 Year 7s.

What strategies / programs does Faith Lutheran College offer to help transition students to high school?

We offer various programs to help students with high school transition. We run transition days for current Year 6 and Year 7 students. This will include Experience Days for enrolled Year 7 students. Our pastoral care program includes both Care Group and Year Level time designed to assist new students in adjusting to high school, including study and organisation skills, anti-bullying and Information HUB orientation. We also have a "senior buddy" program where older students run activities to help new students settle in and get to know each other. Our College has invited Year 7 and Year 12 students to attend the first day 25th January, before Year 7 students head off to camp on the 27th January.

What support mechanisms are in place for my Year 7 student?

Our College offers many support mechanisms for all students, but in particular we are very aware of the needs of students who are transitioning into the College. We have a Pastor located at the College. Pastor Reid is very active in promoting social inclusion and is a great comfort to the students. We have a school nurse who is available five days a week. A guidance counsellor is employed as a permanent member of staff located at the College currently four days a week. We also have a dedicated Learning Enrichment team who work with students' needs.

Will year 7s have their own building?

The College constructed a purpose-built facility located between 'C' and 'E' Blocks. Students in Year 7 will often have classes in this block, but they will also move around the College to access specialist equipment such as science labs, ovals, home economics kitchens, music studios and art rooms.

Will Year 7s have a common teacher for several core subjects?

A core feature of middle schooling is a reduction of the number of teachers a student interacts with across a week. This will be a key consideration of the planning committee, but will be balanced against the need for specialist teachers in a variety of disciplines. The 'pod' structure will lend itself to a reduced number of teachers and therefore, reduced stress for students in transition.

What languages will be offered?

Korean and German are the languages offered, with Beginner and Intermediate levels.

Who do I speak to about my child who has a verified disability?

After following the regular enrolment processes please contact our Key Teacher of Learning Enrichment, Mrs Kathy Jamieson, to arrange for an interview. The Learning Enrichment team are able to support students with specific learning needs.

What bus services will be available to the College?

Students travelling to our College by bus arrive on Faith Lutheran buses, as well as Laidley, Gatton and Zischke school run buses. We are closely monitoring the impact of additional students on transport to and from our College, and have recently purchased an upgrade to our fleet. We are also looking at possible purchases to meet the full complement of buses required to meet the needs of the College. All of our normal bus runs will continue and we are investigating expansion.

Will there be leadership opportunities for students in Junior secondary?

Yes. Our proposed leadership structures include Junior secondary captains (Year 9 students) and Senior secondary captains (Year 12 students). These leadership roles are positioned at "end points" - either the end of schooling, or a student's time in the Junior phase of education. We have a number of programs that help students build leadership capacity in all year levels. The Year 7 Committee will also investigate ways to build leadership capacity starting from Year 7.

Will the Year 7s have a designated space at lunch breaks?

The area around the Year 7 building will be designated as a Year 7 only area. This will provide students with a safe environment to get to know each other, eat lunch and participate in various lunch activities. The area will be an 'invitation only' space whereby older students will only enter if required to do so by staff. As the confidence of Year 7 students grows, they are free to move around the College whilst also knowing that they have a space they can return to and feel safe.

Will programs such as TAS Sport, Instrumental Music, Choir, Band and Co-curricular programs commence in year 7?

Yes. All specialist programs will run in Year 7.

What will be the length of the school day?

The current school day is 8.25am to 2:50pm.

Will Year 7 students have a different uniform?

At the moment it has been determined that there will be no changes to the existing uniform.

Where can I go to get more information about Junior Secondary?

We will continue to update the school website with more information as it comes to hand or contact Royce Mahoney (rmahoney@faithlc.qld.edu.au) – Director of Teaching and Learning, or Rebecca Qualischefski (rqualischefski@faithlc.qld.edu.au) – Junior Secondary Key Teacher.
