our school

St Pius X College is more than just a great school – it is a great community. The teachers endorse this; the parents embrace this; the students thrive on this.

Founded in 1937, St Pius X College is an Independent Catholic school conducted in the Edmund Rice tradition for boys in Years 5 to 12, embracing a diversity of student abilities and talents.

The College is contemporary in its approach to teaching and learning, and has implemented a range of practices which are underpinned by research into boys’ education. The goal is to develop students into independent thinkers and collaborative workers; to be creative and curious; to have a balanced approach to life.

The College promotes the pursuit of knowledge, a love of learning and a commitment to personal excellence. The boys’ educational experience is both comprehensive and cohesive – every boy is valued and respected. With a proud history of providing a high-quality Catholic education, much is expected of the students, staff and parents. The College is a community alive with learning and activity.

Catholic values are at the very heart of St Pius X and Religious Education is at the core of everything that transpires at the College.

The core values and beliefs of Faith, Excellence, Opportunity and Respect, as embedded in the Edmund Rice Education Australia Touchstones, provide the foundation for the boys’ success today.

The College provides a caring and safe environment with clear expectations regarding behaviour, whilst maintaining a variety of activities to promote self-esteem and resilience through the MindMatters and Pastoral Care programs. It ensures that academic achievement is clearly valued within the school community through a range of presentations and awards – doing well at studies and achieving personal best is encouraged and affirmed at St Pius X College.

Courtesy, cooperation, responsibility, respect, hard work, and a commitment to excellence result in positive consequences. Hence, the College has an extensive system of awards for outstanding performance and effort, in both academic and co-curricular life.

A non-selective school, the College is consistently ranked amongst the high-achieving schools in the HSC examinations. The focus is on assisting students to achieve their own personal goals and to rejoice in modest, personal-best achievements as much as outstanding academic, sporting and cultural successes.

The achievements are many at St Pius X College – the personal rewards speak for themselves as boys excel in the classroom, on the sporting field, and in life.
The core values of St Pius X College are embedded in the touchstones of the charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice tradition.

FAITH
St Pius X College is a Catholic learning community engaged in witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ through regular conscientious and active participation in worship, a vibrant sacramental and prayer life, and engagement of the College community in the wider life of the local church. The tradition of Blessed Edmund Rice infuses the religious and spiritual life of the College community.

EXCELLENCE
St Pius X College is a Catholic learning community committed to excellence in the education of boys and the pursuit of the highest levels of personal attainment in all aspects of education – spiritual, intellectual, cultural, social and sporting. Achievement and improvement are actively encouraged, supported, recognised and celebrated. All in the College community strive for personal-best performance and demonstrate persistence, resilience and tenacity in achieving goals.

RESPECT
St Pius X College is a Catholic learning community in which all hold a deep regard for self and others. This is expressed in the daily life of the College through care, compassion and service to promote justice and peace, as well as the dignity and rights of all people.

OPPORTUNITY
St Pius X College is a Catholic learning community committed to enhancing the life changes of all by working together to achieve common aspirations and goals. This is expressed in the daily life of the College through sustainable strategic approaches to new opportunities, maintaining equity and supporting the marginalised.
catholic life

FAITH IS AT THE CORE OF ALL THAT WE DO

The religious dimension of the College is a shared partnership between families and the school. The College is strongly focused on reinforcing the Catholic values drawn from the Gospel that are at its very heart. Its overall concern is with the development of the whole person – physically, spiritually, academically, socially and emotionally.

In 1802 Edmund Rice founded the Christian Brothers. His vision for education was to enable young people to live dignified and fruitful lives. Edmund, a parent himself, fostered a culture of respect and care. Everyone was called to witness, by prophetic action for the benefit of the poor, the oppressed and people at the margins in his schools. St Pius X College continues the vision of Edmund Rice as a member of Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) in embracing the four touchstones of Gospel Spirituality, Liberating Education, Inclusive Community, Justice and Solidarity.

The College motto, Fide et Labore (Through Faith and Hard Work), inspires the College community to foster development through the living of Gospel values. The challenge today is to live out the College’s four core values of Faith, Excellence, Opportunity and Respect in the right relationship with God, ourselves and our neighbours, and indeed with all creation.

The College is first and foremost a Catholic school. We practice our faith and strive to live out our faith daily in the way we treat each other, and the way we learn, in particular through our Social Justice Program and Outreach Services. Boys conduct themselves with respect for others and for themselves.

St Pius X is a family College in partnership with parents and the parish communities. There are a number of significant occasions when the College community gathers to celebrate sacramentally in Masses and Liturgies, including the Opening Mass, Edmund Rice Feast Day, Ash Wednesday, Easter Liturgy, end-of-year Graduations and Reconciliations.

give to the poor in handfuls

EDMUND RICE
junior school

Although very proud of its inclusiveness in educating boys from Year 5 to Year 12, St Pius X College specialises in Stage 3 (Years 5 and 6) boys’ education in its Junior School. The Junior School offers boys a unique preparation for the rigours of the Senior School and builds foundations for a seamless transition in the journey to their secondary studies.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The curriculum is wide ranging, with a strong emphasis on Religious Education and all Key Learning Areas. Regular lessons in Music, Visual Art, Physical Education, Library Skills, Computers and Languages are conducted by specialist teachers. A graded literacy and numeracy program, supported by additional specialist teachers, enables each boy to improve and extend his skills by working in small groups. There are no composite classes in the Junior School.

Some boys are fast learners and need more independent learning environments. St Pius X’s accelerated programs include graded numeracy and literacy classes, as well as exposure to outside competitions such as the Da Vinci Decathlon, Mathematics Camp, Tournament of Minds, Mathematical Olympiads and Primary Research Projects. Other boys need more direction and support – specialist teachers and teacher’s aides coordinate these remediation programs.

There are many opportunities in the Junior School for boys to build their confidence and acquire leadership skills through quarterly rotation of Class Captains and election of Sports House Captains. The junior boys have the opportunity to lead prayers for the entire school, initiate and deliver presentations regarding charity drives and participate in debating, public speaking and musical performances.

“a St Pius X College student is not alone in his journey from Year 5 through to Year 12, or in life beyond the classroom.”
Junior School classrooms are well equipped with e-learning tools and resources, allowing for the integration of technology in Key Learning Areas. In addition, the Junior School has its own library and separate computer rooms. These facilities are available for the boys’ use before school. Boys who like to complete assessments and homework at school can attend ‘Homework Help’, a supervised and teacher-assisted open classroom available as a quiet place to work four afternoons a week.

All classrooms are air-conditioned, modern and bright, providing a comfortable and stimulating learning environment. Many of the classrooms are flexible learning spaces where the walls can be opened up and team teaching and group work can occur in spacious surroundings.

The Junior School is timetabled into the Senior School 10-day cycle, and the boys move to specialist areas within the Senior School to help them prepare for some of the changes that occur when they advance to Year 7.

there are many opportunities in the Junior School for boys to build their confidence and acquire leadership skills

**PASTORAL WELLBEING**

Each year, students from Years 10 and 11 lead the Peer Support and Mentoring Program for the junior students. This highly supportive and invaluable pastoral wellbeing program is based upon being a big brother to the younger students. It is not a responsibility assumed solely by Peer Support Leaders – it is a responsibility of all senior students. A mentoring program is available to all boys within the College.

Organised out-of-school activities, such as rock climbing and kayaking, build strong friendships amongst the mentors and mentees.

**MUSIC**

Numerous musical choices provide the opportunity for novice and experienced musicians to join one of the 18 College bands and ensembles. The Junior Choir, Concert and Jazz Bands are specifically aimed towards boys in Years 5 and 6. The College offers Music as part of the curriculum from Year 5 to Year 12.
BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

The College encourages students to be involved in a variety of activities all year round. It is a requirement that all boys participate in a season of sport for the College, so as to develop friendships, self-esteem and an affiliation with the College. This involvement benefits the whole St Pius X community, the staff, the students and their families. It enriches relationships and builds school spirit, character, team work, discipline, skills, fitness, dedication and inter-house competitiveness.

Activities include The Edmund Rice Oratory Competition, Debating and Public Speaking, the Premier’s Reading Challenge, Robotics Club, chess, band, choir, cricket, basketball, swimming, tennis, football, rugby, AFL, athletics, cross-country and softball.

There are many out-of-class learning enrichment programs, which include camps in Years 5 and 6 and various excursions.

SPORT

The Junior School is a member of the Independent Primary School Heads of Australia (IPSHA) and participates in a different competition from that of the Senior School. The Junior School competes against more than 50 Sydney metropolitan schools such as St Aloysius, Barker, Cranbrook, Knox and Waverley. This competition eventually divides into the Senior School ISA, CAS and GPS competitions. St Pius X College is primarily in the A Division for all sports, with over 30 teams participating in a wide variety of sports including football, rugby, cricket, basketball, tennis, cross-country, swimming, softball and athletics. The College’s home ground is The Treacy Education Complex, 10 kilometres from Chatswood at Oxford Falls. Games take place on Saturday mornings, with competitions finishing by noon for the juniors.

On Thursdays, from 11am, as an essential part of the Personal Development and Health and Physical Education Program, boys take part in Physical Education, core sports and dance education at the Oxford Falls complex. The boys are transported to and from Oxford Falls by private coach. In Term 4, the Year 5 Swimming Program complements the Year 6 Surf Safety Program at Dee Why.

For many boys the emphasis is on experiencing a variety of games and activities, seeking to do their personal best and enjoying themselves. For others, sport is their passion and they strive for selection into a Firsts team and the chance to represent the Blue and Gold of St Pius X College. Membership within the IPSHA provides a pathway to state and national sporting competitions for those boys who excel in their chosen sports.
senior school

St Pius X College believes that all are born with many skills and abilities. Realising and learning to apply these skills and abilities requires encouragement, experience and confidence. This development comes from the College’s teaching and learning environment, family, peers, mentors and society. All these groups have an impact on development.

A school’s culture and environment have a significant influence on the growth and formation of children and young people. The focus is to foster opportunities for students to grow in a trusting environment, to take risks, show initiative and practise leadership.

A growing body of research is showing what most parents of boys already know – that boys need the right kind of environment to learn and develop to their full potential. Pastoral care that builds self-worth and confidence, classroom activities that teaches literacy, and learning by seeing and doing, all boost learning outcomes for boys.

BIDDULPH, HAWKES, POLLACH, ROWE
TEACHING AND LEARNING

The curriculum in the Senior School is comprehensive, cohesive and challenging. With the support of experienced teachers, the Pastoral Care team and Guidance Coordinators, boys are skilfully educated, encouraged and nurtured through to their Higher School Certificate (HSC) and beyond.

As well as learning support programs, there is a well-developed Gifted and Talented Program, which exposes students to acceleration programs, external competitions and courses.

Digital learning is integrated throughout the College and student achievement is supported by a coherent approach to the integration of e-learning and digital tools.

The College provides students with real choice and flexibility within their pattern of study, whilst maintaining a strong emphasis on literacy and numeracy. Students in Year 9 are offered three elective subjects, two of these are continued into Year 10. These are in addition to the curriculum mandated by the Board of Studies. Senior studies in Years 11 and 12 comprise of Preliminary and HSC courses. Religious Education and English are compulsory subjects to the end of Year 12.

St Pius X College students achieve outstanding results in national and international competitions, national assessments and the HSC. The College has a long history of high academic achievement, with a considerable number of students gaining selection for both national and international competitions and scholarships.

At St Pius X College, historically more than 80% of students are offered university placements.
MUSIC

Music is an integral part of College life, with 18 ensembles and more than 350 students actively involved in the Music program. The College has an outstanding and established reputation in musical activities and achievements, including results in the HSC. Many students have gained state and national awards through all types of ensemble and solo performances. The College offers Music as part of the curriculum from Year 5 to Year 12.

Students at the College have every opportunity to make music a significant part of their lives and to engage in the performing and creative arts. A large number of students have graduated from the College with excellent results in Music. Many have gone on to become professional performers, or have continued their studies in music-related fields.

There are numerous opportunities for students to display their musical talents through concerts, competitions and public performances.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Co-curricular activities are an essential part of the educational philosophy of St Pius X College. There is a clear expectation that all students be involved in co-curricular activities, as required by membership of the Independent Sporting Association (ISA). The College also encourages students to take part in a variety of activities; these include the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Bands, Ensembles and Choirs, Robotics, Public Speaking, Debating, and Mock Trial as well as Numeracy, Literacy, Science and Language competitions and Chess tournaments. These programs enrich relationships and build school spirit, character, team work, discipline, skills, fitness and dedication. A house cup promotes inter-house competition, accumulating points across a range of sports and activities.

SPORT

The Senior School is a member of the Independent Sporting Association (ISA) which provides inter-school sports competitions on a home-and-away basis. There are many activities available such as athletics, basketball, cricket, football, rugby, swimming and tennis.

Competition games usually take place on Saturdays in season, and involve competitions against 20 other Independent CAS and GPS schools as well as ISA schools within Sydney and the Greater Metropolitan Area. Commitment to any sport involves full participation in training and coaching sessions, sports carnivals and games. The College home ground is at Oxford Falls, with its state-of-the-art facilities, set on 6 hectares of land, just 10 kilometres from Chatswood.

Boys who excel in sport have opportunities for representative selection at ISA, Combined Independent Schools, state and national levels. The College is well represented in all sports and generally competes in the top divisions.
pastoral care

St Pius X College has a valuable and effective Peer Support and Mentoring Program which involves all students, but is especially aimed at boys in Years 5 and 7 who are paired with boys in Years 10 and 11, and boys in Year 6 who are buddied with their peers. A mentoring program is available to all boys within the College.

The College has been recognised and accredited as a National MindMatters school for its whole-school approach to the promotion of positive mental health and wellbeing throughout the school community. Positive self-image, respect for others and an active “Buddies Not Bullies” prevention program are the hallmarks of this whole-school initiative.

Organised out-of-school activities, such as rock climbing, bushwalking, boxercise and kayaking, build strong friendships amongst the mentors and mentees. The boys value this peer support system. Mixing with older boys encourages junior school boys to be confident and positive, and helps to create stronger bonds and connections amongst their peers and the older students.

“we work at educating young men who can make a difference for others in the world, not merely as high achievers, the politically powerful, influential or the famous, but young men who will be good sons, brothers, husbands, fathers, friends and confidants with a social conscience.”
St Pius X College is a place for the holistic education of all – the academic, the sportsman, the musician, the orator, the writer, the leader. Boys who aspire to be a part of the Edmund Rice Society celebrate their faith through actively being involved in all that the College offers. Ultimately, the College encourages its students to make a difference to and for others.

The Social Justice Program allows the boys to live Gospel values in the way Blessed Edmund Rice sought to do when he established Christian Brothers’ education. Boys are involved in a number of voluntary outreach programs in the wider community and give their spare time generously. They visit the elderly, raise money for charities and donate their unwanted sports kits to children in Cambodia.

The immersion program for students in Year 10 at St Joseph’s, Walgett and St Mary’s, Bowraville allows boys to develop an awareness and tolerance of the broader spectrum of people within the community.

Such activities help to nurture the principles and values which assist each boy to develop a balanced perspective and enhance the esteem and personal development of each individual. This, in turn, creates an environment of spiritual and social cohesiveness, which supports boys on their inner journey towards maturity.

We work at educating young men who can make a difference for others in the world, not merely as high achievers, the politically powerful, influential or the famous, but young men who will be good sons, brothers, husbands, fathers, friends and confidants with a social conscience.
Technology is an integral part of the boys’ daily learning experiences. All classrooms are equipped with either overhead data projectors, computers and interactive e-whiteboards. In today’s developing world of technology, the College strives to ensure that up-to-date ICT is incorporated into the curriculum to enhance student learning. An e-learning coordinator integrates the use of a wide range of technologies into the classroom.

St Pius X College is a NSW flagship school with Windows 8 tablet learning being rolled out to every student. The College also provides additional technology in the form of desktop and laptop computers.

An e-learning plan has been developed, ensuring there is a clear strategic intent and that student achievement is supported by a coherent approach to the integration of e-learning and digital tools.

The College boasts Senior and Junior School resource centres – the Leary Learning Centre, five dedicated computing spaces, technology and applied science spaces and six well-equipped Science laboratories. There are also a number of multimedia centres with home theatre systems. Music facilities include a recording studio, a well-equipped band rehearsal room, music tutor rooms and a portable classroom keyboard laboratory. There are art studios, woodwork rooms (theory and practical), a multipurpose hall/gymnasium, a separate weights room and cardio gym, a multipurpose sports pavilion, and a canteen and clinic. The College is also fitted with a lift, ramps and toilets for students with disabilities or injuries.

A few minutes walk from the College is Beauchamp Park where, on rotation, year groups enjoy supervised lunchtimes.

facilities & resources

there is an abundance of kindness and generosity as well as a wonderful sense of caring and community within our College.
Ten kilometres away at Oxford Falls is the Treacy Sporting and Education Complex, the College’s home ground for many sporting events, curriculum-related activities and social events. Situated on 6 hectares, these excellent facilities include four ovals for rugby and football, turf and synthetic cricket pitches, two tennis courts, two indoor gymnasiums/three indoor basketball courts and two outdoor basketball courts, a large conference room, lecture rooms, canteen, change/shower rooms, clinic, Food Technology classrooms, barbecue facilities and function rooms.

The whole school regularly enjoys these magnificent facilities, which are, on occasion, host to National and International rugby team training sessions.

boys are kept very busy, fuelling their imagination and stretching their minds.
The Junior School is a member of the Independent Primary School Heads of Australia (IPSHA) and the Senior School is a member of the Independent Sports Association (ISA). There is a wide range of summer and winter activities available to the students and the boys enjoy participating in these developmental sports programs at progressively higher levels in healthy, competitive environments.

Competitive Saturday sport is offered each term. Depending on the sport, some teams are selective and graded on ability. Games involve competitions against other Independent CAS and GPS schools within Sydney and the Greater Metropolitan Area as well as ISA schools.

During term breaks specialist training clinics are often held for the different sports, with outside professional coaches helping the boys to further develop their skills and gain a deeper understanding of their selected sport. Pre-season training assists in team and individual performance. There is the potential for annual interstate and overseas competitions and tours.
Music is an integral part of College life and as part of the curriculum, Music classes are offered from Year 5 to Year 12. A Music Technology Program, comprising a mixture of audio engineering and composing, utilising the modern sound recording and mixing studios, is also available.

There are 18 performing ensembles including Concert and Jazz Bands, Choirs, Percussion, Guitar and String Ensembles, and String Quartets. Ensembles are graded on ability level and not by age or year group. Over 350 students are involved in the Music program at St Pius X, with many of these students being a member of more than one ensemble. The College has an outstanding and established reputation in musical activities. The boys have every opportunity to make Music a significant and important part of their lives.

The Music Department offers tuition during school hours for students wishing to learn an instrument. There is a Music Parents Association, which supports the Music Department and the running of the Music Program.

There are numerous opportunities available for students to display their musical talents through a wide-ranging concert and performance program. Ensembles also participate in festivals and community events where appropriate. The College hosts several Twilight Concerts throughout the year, allowing parents and friends to enjoy all of the major ensembles on offer at the College. Additionally, in Term 4, the “Falls Festival” allows the boys who may not be formally involved in the Music program to display their talents and skills.
our history

THE HISTORY OF ST PIUS X COLLEGE, CHATSWOOD

In 1936, the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood, Father Barry, asked the Christian Brothers to establish a school to educate the increasing number of local Catholic boys in the area.

In 1937, the College opened with 147 students. At the College today, there are over 1100 students. The College soon established itself as a place of academic excellence. Its first Dux, James Biggs, went on to great success as a Professor of Medicine, thus beginning a tradition of high-achieving students graduating from the College.

In 1954, whilst under the leadership of Christian Brother Max O’Connor, the College took on its present name in honour of the canonisation of Pope Pius X who had been Supreme Pontiff from 1903 to 1914.

During the 1970s, Mercy College and St Pius X College trialled co-instruction for Years 11 and 12. However, the partnership of two separate schools and administrative systems proved technically too difficult to continue and co-instruction was discontinued in 1983.

In 2010, the Christian Brothers appointed the first lay Principal to lead St Pius X College, Chatswood.

In 2012, the College celebrated 75 years of Christian Brothers Education in Chatswood.

Blessed Edmund Rice

(1 JUNE 1762 – 29 AUGUST 1844)

Edmund Rice was born in 1762 in Callan, County Kilkenny, Ireland. As a young man, Edmund moved to the port of Waterford where he was apprenticed to his Uncle Michael, eventually succeeding his uncle and becoming a prosperous businessman. He married Mary Elliot and they were blessed with a daughter, who unfortunately was in some way disabled. Shortly after the birth of their daughter, Mary suffered a tragic accident and died. Edmund cared for his daughter with the support of his stepsister, Joan.

Seeing the lack of Christian education among the boys of Waterford, and after much reflection, Edmund commenced his great work of Christian education, which over time spread across the globe, coming to Sydney, Australia in 1843.

The Christian Brothers and the Presentation Brothers developed from the foundation which he laid in 1802. Edmund led the Brothers for many years before dying in Waterford on 29 August 1844.

In 1996, he was declared “Blessed” by the Church – the first step in the Catholic Church towards sainthood.
enrolment

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

To ensure receipt of the Application for Enrolment form at the correct time, a completed Expression of Interest form should be submitted to the College. The Expression of Interest form is available through the Enrolment Office, within the prospectus and on the College website. It may be submitted electronically or in person to the College Office.

There is no fee to lodge the Expression of Interest form. Completion of this form ensures that you are placed on the mailing list to receive the Enrolment Application form at the correct time, ordinarily in March, two years prior to the student’s proposed commencement. Completion of the Expression of Interest form does not constitute an enrolment or a place on a waiting list.

CAMPUS INSPECTION

In March each year, the College holds an Open Day. All prospective boys and their families are warmly invited to attend. The Principal, Staff, College Leaders and students are available to guide and answer questions. Tours of the campus at both Chatswood and Oxford Falls are conducted by students and staff, and take in the Key Learning Areas and co-curricular activities of both the Senior and Junior Schools.

Up-to-date details about the Open Day can be found on the College website.

APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT FOR YEARS 5, 6 and 7

Enrolment applications are accepted two years prior to the student’s proposed commencement.

Please see the separate information guide within the prospectus about Enrolment procedures and policy information.