



MOUNT SINAI COLLEGE
CREATING LEARNERS FOR LIFE



2024 MSC ANNUAL REPORT



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Theme 1: Context

Contextual Information and Characteristics of the Student Body

At Mount Sinai College, we proudly draw on the richness of both Australian and Jewish heritage, fostering a deep love of Israel and a strong sense of belonging. Located in Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, our nurturing, family-centred environment is grounded in enduring values—promoting respect for self and others, and a commitment to social and ethical responsibility.

We believe education is not about filling a pail but igniting a flame. Our goal is to kindle a *Ner Tamid*—an eternal flame of Judaism—within each student, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and inspiration to keep that flame burning brightly throughout their lives.

From our modest beginnings in 1981 with just 14 students in a Maroubra Synagogue classroom, Mount Sinai College has flourished into a thriving, future-focused learning community. Today, our modern campus reflects both our journey and our commitment to excellence. With around 400 students, we celebrate each child as unique - supporting their growth in autonomy, resilience, and thoughtful decision-making. As an Apple Distinguished School, we are proud to integrate innovation and technology into our approach—but it is our dedication to nurturing resilient, critical, and creative thinkers that truly defines us.

We recognise that traditional models of education are no longer sufficient to prepare students for a rapidly evolving world. At Mount Sinai, we are not simply reforming education—we are transforming it. Through dynamic, student-centred approaches, we strive to make learning relevant, joyful, and impactful.

Our award-winning learning environments and technology program reflect this vision. Teachers seamlessly use Apple technology to create collaborative, challenging, and personalised experiences. Yet we know that care, imagination, and creativity cannot be downloaded. These human qualities are cultivated the traditional way—through reading, writing, reflecting, and meaningful conversation.

At the heart of our College are Jewish learning and the 6 Kinds of Best values that shape our culture and empower students to embrace their Jewish identity with pride. We are committed to nurturing future generations who are not only learners but *menschen*—active participants in Jewish life and positive contributors to the broader community.

Key Messages

College Principal: Noelene Bellingham

A Year in Reflection: Celebrating Our First Year Together at Mount Sinai College



As I reflect on my first year as Principal of Mount Sinai College, I feel deeply honoured by the trust placed in me to lead our school and extremely grateful for the warmth, resilience, and dedication that characterise our community. This year has been both transformative and deeply fulfilling, with the energy of our students, staff, and families continuously inspiring me. At Mount Sinai, our collective strength lies in the kindness we extend toward one another, and I am immensely proud of all we have achieved together.

One of our most significant accomplishments this year is Mount Sinai College's recognition as an Apple Distinguished School for a fifth consecutive designation (2024–2027). This prestigious distinction is awarded to schools that demonstrate a commitment to innovation and excellence in using Apple technology to inspire and enrich education. We have been acknowledged as a centre of leadership and educational distinction, where technology-rich environments support learning goals and foster creativity. This honour would not be possible without our visionary leaders and teachers, particularly David Colville and Toolie Fester, who work tirelessly to inspire, imagine, and impact teaching and learning for the benefit of our students.

In addition to this, we introduced several new and exciting opportunities for our students to grow and engage, such as the e-Sports competition, the Social Action Expo, Inter-school Debating, the PDH Podcast and the Battle of the Bands. These experiences are a testament to the dedication of our highly trained teaching staff, who continually go above and beyond to provide students with enriching and diverse activities. This year, we celebrated the accreditation of three teachers to the status of Experienced Teacher, supported by Amanda Eisman, with three more on track to achieve this milestone in 2025. Our commitment to professional development and recognising high-quality staff is essential to ensuring that our students receive the best education possible.

In alignment with our dedication to fostering an environment of academic and personal excellence, we also introduced a new Merit System grounded in our guiding values—the “6 Kinds of Best.” This framework emphasises qualities we hold dear: Kind to Self, Kind to Others, Kind to the Community, Kind to the Environment, The Learning Kind, The Achieving Kind and The Community Kind. Kind to Learning, and Kind to Achievement. Throughout the year, we have celebrated these values across our classrooms and in the wider community, sharing student accomplishments in our weekly newsletter. Each recognition reflects the growth of our students as individuals who embody the principles that define Mount Sinai College.

We have also restructured our student leadership structure and committees to provide greater opportunities for our students to develop their skills and to give back to the community.

Our values resonate throughout the school, as Rabbi Jonathan Sacks so beautifully articulated: “Community is where we come together to be uplifted, inspired, and challenged to grow.” This spirit has been evident in every part of our school life, especially in the reinvigoration of our Parents' Association. With over 100 committed volunteers, led by Lior Nickig and supported by Keren Lipschitz, Keren Meck and Dani Goldwater, this year has been filled with meaningful events and gatherings that strengthen our sense of connection. Our Mother's Day and Father's Day celebrations were particularly heartwarming, fostering appreciation and gratitude within our community. I am incredibly grateful to all the volunteers who have enriched the lives of our students, families, and staff, helping us build stronger relationships.

Our commitment to fostering intergenerational connections was also highlighted through our K-6 Grandparents and Special Friends Day. It was wonderful to witness students sharing their love for learning with their grandparents and special friends, highlighting the value of family and the lasting bonds that connect generations. Seeing these connections deepen and knowing how they contribute to our students' sense of belonging was a truly moving experience.

This year, we also launched the MSC Foundation, which will play a critical role in fostering connections across generations within our Mount Sinai community. Through initiatives like the newly established Grandparents Club, we are excited to see how these relationships will continue to evolve and grow. A key role of the Foundation is to keep our alumni and founding members engaged with the school.

2024 marks a bittersweet milestone as we bid farewell to two longstanding families—the Philippsohn and Ely/Schwartz families. These families have been cornerstones of our community, serving as founding parents, board members, alumni, and staff, leaving an indelible mark on Mount Sinai. Although their children are moving on, we look forward to continued engagement, with Peter Philippsohn as Life Governor, Myree Ely with the Grandparents Club, and Rachel Schwartz as a dedicated staff member.

We also farewell Rachel Anderton, who has devoted over 25 years to nurturing our youngest students. Rachel's dedication, compassion, and impact on our community will be remembered fondly. Not only has she educated many young learners, but her own children, Jonah and Charlie, are part of our Mount Sinai family. As she embarks on a new chapter, we extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes for her future.

To our Year 6 students, we offer our best wishes as you embark on a new chapter of your educational journey. We encourage each of you to carry forward Mount Sinai's values, challenge the status quo, and continue striving for excellence. You have left your mark on this school, and we are confident that you will make a positive difference in the world.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Daryn Saretzki and the Mount Sinai College Board for their tireless dedication to our school, making it the wonderful place it is. Their unwavering support has been essential, and on behalf of the entire community, I thank you for your commitment. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the JCA for their ongoing support of our school, and in particular Alain Hasson for his contributions. By donating to and volunteering with the JCA campaign, you are directly supporting Mount Sinai and strengthening our broader community. It is this commitment that helps maintain the strength, vibrancy, and continuity of our community into the future. To my Leadership Team—Garron Forman, Rozanna Pleshet, Amanda Eisman, Janine Sussman, David Colville, Emily Levenson, Kathryn Pearce, Jill Allison, Stacey Pizzol and Aiden Levy—thank you for your hard work, dedication, and inspiration. Your efforts truly make a difference each and every day.

To our incredible team of educators and administration staff, thank you. Your dedication and commitment to making Mount Sinai College a nurturing and inspiring place do not go unnoticed. You are the heart of this school, and the positive impact you have on the lives of our students and their families is immeasurable.

As we look forward, we hold in our hearts a hope for peace and the safety of all, particularly for Israel. In these challenging times, our unity and resilience as a community are more essential than ever, and I am grateful for the compassion and understanding we continue to show each other.

Thank you all for a wonderful year. Together, we are building a future rooted in kindness, learning, and strength, creating learners for life. I am honoured to be a part of the Mount Sinai College community and look forward to the journey ahead.



President of the Board of Management: Daryn Saretzki



Each year, as I prepare to write this article, it provides a good opportunity to reflect on how the year at the College has gone, to recognise some of our achievements and those who have supported us, and to consider where we (and I) could've done better.

It's often easy to zoom through a year and forget all the wonderful experiences along the way – and I must say, there have been many. I do, however – sadly, similar to last year – want to recognise the situation in the State of Israel and across the diaspora. The situations in Gaza and Lebanon are having a profound impact on our family in Israel and our global Jewish family, with the significant and rising levels of antisemitism.

We mourn all the innocent lives lost through this conflict, but in particular, we grieve for those who lost their lives on 7 October 2023 and since then. We grieve for the soldiers whose lives have been lost defending Eretz Yisrael, and of course, we pray for the safe return of the hostages still held captive. I pray we return to more peaceful times as soon as possible.

As I reflected last year, the Jewish people have always sustained – and investment in Jewish education is one of the factors that helps drive this. That alone is reason to celebrate Mount Sinai and our Jewish Day Schools.

Turning back to MSC, over the last year there has been a fantastic vibe, culture and energy on campus – when I've had the chance, I've loved being there in the morning watching the kids running around and playing together while parents grab a coffee.

Reflecting on some of the achievements over the past year, I wanted to recognise the following key ones:

- The renovation of our Kingsford ELC Campus refreshing and bringing new light and life to the ELC.
- Officially launching our MSC Foundation and the Chai Giving Circle to support families in financial hardship.
- Successfully securing the JCA's 2026 Capital Appeal with the opportunity to complete the final stages of the College's Master Plan which includes an all-purpose Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Music centre together with additional play space on campus.
- Launching an enhanced co-curricular program with additional offerings for sports for our kids. This was something parents have asked for in the Parents Survey and we are working hard to respond to the ask.

- We've achieved some amazing results as well – ranging from strong outcomes in the recent NAPLAN testing to having very strong numbers in our ELC for 2025.
- Seeing a renewal of our Parents Association and the fantastic engagement and events with the parent body this year; and
- Finally, it's worth mentioning and remembering the variety of wonderful events we have each year that help make MSC such a special place – we are so proud of our Siddur Presentation, our Soirees, the Swimming Carnival, the Athletics Carnival, Winter Wonderland, the Pesach Seder and School camps – these all help make the school the amazing place it is.

None of this happens without the hard work and dedication of so many. I do want to give a special thanks to the following:

- A big thank you to Noelene Bellingham who has worked tirelessly stepping into the role of Principal taking feedback and really embracing the role. A special thanks also to the school leadership team including Garon, Rozanna, Jill and the rest of the team who all do an amazing job.
- A big thank you as well to the other half of the leadership team for the school which includes Kathryn Pearce our Business Manager, David Colville, our Director of IT and Innovation, Rachel Schwartz our Director of Enrolments and the rest of the team in the office including Kelly, Kirsti, Jo and many others. All of you ensure the school runs smoothly in the background.
- Most importantly, I want to call out and recognise each of our teaching staff and educators – from ELC to Year 6, from Hebrew and Jewish Studies through all the secular subjects. You continue to be the reason the College is able to engage and educate our kids and your commitment is key to our success.

While I don't have much more space I do want to acknowledge and thank a range of others including the PA members and volunteers and especially the PA President Lior Nickig for doing such an amazing job.

I also want to thank the MSC Foundation Committee members but especially the President Meirav Shulkin who has worked tirelessly this year in setting up the Foundation.

Finally, I want to give my utmost thanks to the MSC Board members and the members of our Board Committees. Your time and contributions have been fabulous, and I thank you for putting up your hand and helping make an impact

I wish the Year 6 class of 2024 all the best for their futures and the exciting years ahead in high school. I have no doubt you have brought much nachas to your families and I hope you continue to do so into the future. Make them and Mount Sinai proud!

Infants & Jewish Studies Coordinator: Rozanna Pleshet

"Knowledge acquired in childhood is not soon forgotten." – Talmud, Shabbat



Jewish education serves as a foundation for young children to build an identity that encompasses cultural, spiritual, moral, and intellectual dimensions, influencing their development in a holistic way that impacts them throughout their lives. Attaining knowledge whilst experiencing and enacting Jewish customs, rituals and values woven into their daily school life, develops a strong sense of cultural identity, community and belonging.

This year has been one of sombre reflection for world Jewry. Regardless, we strive to maintain hope and determination. The focus of Jewish education must be on the importance of historical memory and the enduring values of justice and compassion. Our goal is to cultivate empowered individuals rooted in their heritage, equipped to engage meaningfully with the world, and committed to the collective flourishing of the Jewish people and humanity at large. Kindness ranks highly in Judaism, as embodied "6 Kinds of Best" values system at the college. These values or "kinds" are deeply rooted in our Torah teachings and mitzvot and are a "code" by which we articulate the importance of kindness in every realm to our young students.

Our 6 Kinds of Best:

1. **Kind to Others** (Derech Eretz): maintaining respectful relationships at all times.
2. **Kindness to the Environment** (Tikkun Olam): Judaism promotes stewardship, prohibiting wastefulness and encouraging sustainable actions to "repair the world".
3. **Kind to Yourself** (Chesed): Self-care is valued, encouraging health, joy and rest. Our greatest gift is Shabbat which provides a time for self-rejuvenation.
4. **Achieving Kind** (Hesegiyut): Jewish teachings promote the pursuit of excellence balanced with valuing humility alongside achievement.
5. **Community Kind** (Kehilla): Judaism emphasises the importance of community, both locally and globally. Supporting others through acts of loving-kindness (gemilut chasadim) and charity (tzedakah).
6. **Learning Kind** (Lemidah): Lifelong learning is valued and encouraged, developing wisdom and character growth.

By reflecting on these "kinds" during daily Prayers, class discussions, and Jewish studies sessions we can reinforce these values through reflection, activities and community building exercises. By modelling and incorporating these values in every aspect of our school day, we can foster a vibrant, compassionate, and kindness-driven environment.

Our team of Hebrew/Jewish Studies team were privileged to attend the Zionist Federation of Australia's 2024 Jewish Educators' Conference that was held in Melbourne this year. Our team left inspired and recharged, having reconnected with Jewish heritage and new ideas for engaging students. Staff from schools worldwide presented, sharing diverse teaching practices yet unified by a commitment to Jewish education's role in fostering identity, resilience, and community. Against the backdrop of recent global events, sessions this year emphasised the importance of unity, hope, and purpose in Jewish education. This collective focus on cultural values and our shared mission strengthened a sense of purpose, empowering our educators to inspire the next generation with renewed passion and a deeper sense of solidarity.

Additional highlights of our school year included sharing in an array of cherished Jewish milestones and rituals. From our Siddur Presentations and challah bakes to the Bat Mitzvah presentation, weekly visits to Maroubra Shule for Year 6 led Kabbalat Shabbat services and celebrations of Festive days, each moment brought our school community together in celebration of Judaism.

At the heart of everything we do at the College lies our unwavering team spirit. This year, our team of Hebrew Jewish Studies educators truly embodied that team spirit, facing every challenge with determination, conviction, plenty of laughter, and an endless supply of optimism and generosity of spirit.

I am deeply grateful to my dedicated team of "Morot" – Carolyn, Osnat, Ruthie, Dana, Deena, and Inbal. To them, and to the entire MSC staff, I dedicate these inspiring words from Rabbi Jonathan Sacks Z"l:

"I believe that Judaism made an extraordinarily wise decision when it made teachers its heroes and lifelong education its passion. Power forces us. Wealth induces us. But teachers develop us. They open us to the wisdom of the ages, helping us to see the world more clearly, think more deeply, argue more cogently, and decide more wisely."

Let us move forward this year with compassion and collaboration, praying for a world filled with peace, understanding, and healing. May we soon witness the safe return of all hostages in captivity and the restoration of harmony to their families and communities. Together, we aspire for a future where justice, kindness, and unity prevail, strengthening the bonds of humanity.

Am Yisrael Chai

Early Learning Centre Director's Report: Jill Allison



As educators, we find it increasingly essential to instil the values of kindness and empathy in our children from an early age. Our young ELC children are at an impressionable age and a formative period where young minds are open to learning and absorbing new ideas. By instilling the principles of kindness and empathy, we aim to cultivate a generation of compassionate individuals who will shape a more caring and harmonious future.

We know academic knowledge is vital but nurturing emotional intelligence holds equal significance. By teaching kindness and empathy, we empower our ELC children to develop essential life skills and become caring individuals who are aware of the world around them.

By building strong relationships, helping them learn how to solve conflicts, and preventing bullying, we're not just setting them up for academic success – we're shaping them into compassionate and socially responsible individuals.

This past year, more than ever, we have integrated several methods to infuse kindness and empathy into our everyday activities. Here are some steps we implement:

1. **Lead by Example**

Children are incredible observers, and they learn by imitating adults around them. Our educators model kindness and empathy in their interactions with students, colleagues, and parents. When children witness compassionate behaviour, they are more likely to mirror it.

2. **Storytelling:**

Stories have a magical way of teaching important life lessons. We carefully select books and stories that revolve around themes of kindness, empathy, and understanding. Through characters and situations in these stories, children can connect and empathise with others' experiences.

3. **Cooperative Play and Teamwork:**

We emphasise group activities and collaborative games that encourage cooperation and teamwork. Engaging in play with peers helps children develop social skills and understand the needs and feelings of others.

4. **Gratitude and Appreciation:**

We teach the children to express gratitude and appreciation for the kindness they receive. "Thank you" and "please" should become a natural part of their vocabulary. It promotes empathy and strengthens social bonds.

5. Random Acts of Kindness:

We encourage small acts of kindness within the classroom, like sharing toys, helping clean up, or comforting a friend in distress. Recognising and praising these actions reinforce positive behaviour in preschoolers.

6. Conflict Resolution:

Children are bound to encounter conflicts. We teach them peaceful resolution strategies, such as sharing, taking turns, and using words to express their feelings instead of resorting to aggression.

7. Cultivating a Safe and Supportive Environment:

We create an inclusive, safe, and supportive environment where the children feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and emotions without fear of judgment. This helps in building trusting relationships.

Teaching kindness and empathy to our children is a gift we give not only to them but to the world. We are dedicated to nurturing these qualities in our students, empowering them to grow into compassionate and socially conscious adults. Together, let's shape a brighter and more empathetic future for our children.

“If you have to choose between being kind and being right, CHOOSE BEING KIND and you will always be right” (Dr. Wayne Dyer)

There are, as always, many people to thank for helping the ELC be what it is today.

Thank you to all the parents for your continued support and entrusting in us to take care of your children. All the children have thrived under our wonderful educator's guidance, love and support.

Thank you to our Puggles, Joeys, Prep Educators and the specialist educators, Coach Joel Weiner (Sport), Elana Shatari (Puggles, Joeys & Prep music), Ruthie Rubinstein (Joeys & Prep Hebrew) and Dana Ewald (Puggles Hebrew), for enriching the children's experiences this year.

Thank you to Noelene Bellingham (College Principal), Kathryn Pearce (College Business Manager), the MSC Board, the MSC PA, Rachel Schwartz (Director of Enrolments), Kelly Cabral (Marketing Director), David Colville (IT Director), Kirsti Fox (Marketing and Enrolment Assistant) and the Admin team.

Lastly, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our incredible children. Each day, they fill our hearts with joy, curiosity, and laughter. Watching them grow, learn, and develop into kind and empathetic individuals has been the greatest reward. As Jess Lair beautifully said, **“Children are not things to be moulded, but are people to be unfolded.”** Our goal is to help each child discover their unique qualities, supporting them as they unfold into their best selves.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we are excited to continue this journey together – nurturing, supporting, and celebrating each child as they continue to thrive. Together, we'll keep building a warm, welcoming, and vibrant ELC community.



College Rabbi: Rabbi Zalman Goldstein



When it comes to this period on the calendar we start to look back at the past year. However, at the same time we look forward to the future as well.

First, we look back at all the amazing achievements of our students. The amazing moments that brought us joy and pride in our Judaism. Whether it was the Purim fun, the Pesach Seders, the Challah bakes or many others. We also prayed for Israel and learned lessons from the great sacrifice of our brave soldiers.

The Talmud teaches us איזהו חכם הרואה את הנולד. "Who is wise? The one that knows the results of ones actions far into the future."

After a long year of learning and growing it's time to use this gift of our beautiful time spent in Mount Sinai and use it for the bright future ahead of us. I personally also look back at the past year and I reflect on different special moments that I had. One of my favourite times of the day is when I get to visit the classes for morning prayers. It is a very calming moment and peaceful experience in a busy life. With this I look forward to the future as well and encourage everyone to bring some prayer moments into the summer too.

Waking up in the morning and saying "Modeh Ani," is a beautiful way to start a fresh new morning. Thanking G-d for another day, where we are grateful for life and the gifts that G-d has given us. This small and easy prayer makes us a more grateful and happier person, as it fills our day with more meaning.

To our Year six students, we will miss you and we wish you much success in your new journey through Highschool.



School Captains: Aidan Shulkin and Ellie Clifford

Shalom Mount Sinai!

We are honored to have been your Head Madrichim of 2024. Throughout our journey, we have learnt what it means to be a leader and a role model. As we stand here at the end of another remarkable year at Mount Sinai College, it is hard to believe how quickly the time has flown by. Now is the time to reflect on all the memories we've made, what we have achieved, and what we have learnt together as a community.

What a journey it has been since we started Year K in 2018. There was a massive renovation, and our school was transformed into a modern building with state-of-the-art facilities and open-plan flexible learning spaces. Mr Roberts, our legendary Principal, has retired, and we welcomed Ms. Bellingham last year. We also saw our school Rabbi change in 2023, we were very happy to welcome Rabbi Zalman.

In Year K, when we first walked through the gates of MSC, we were shy and nervous. Now, at the end of Year 6, we stand tall and hold our heads up high with confidence and pride. Our journey has been unforgettable, and we have learnt so much.

We always knew Year 6 would be an amazing year, but it still exceeded our expectations. "We do and we heed." Our school motto, which we have tried to live up to throughout our last year at Mount Sinai. Being the eldest children at the school comes with responsibility, achrayut. Younger years look up to you which is why it is important to be a role model. We have enjoyed the freedom, independence, and responsibility of being the oldest students in the school. The highlights of the year included the Day of Notables, the Science Expo, the Leadership Program, the Canberra trip, school camp, A.E.W week as well as our Bar and Bat Mitzvah projects.

Mount Sinai College has provided us with an outstanding education, with a strong focus on character and good values. The '6 Kinds of Best' have guided us throughout our years at the school and will stay with us for the rest of our lives. We have also learnt to be proud of who we are, rather than ashamed. "Mount Sinai kids don't blend in; they stand out!" In Hebrew meaning **הם בולטים לא משתלבים**. ילדי בית ספר הר סיני לא משתלבים!

We are so sad to be saying goodbye to this warm and loving school, which has always been our second home.

We would like to thank Ms. Bellingham, our Principal, all the wonderful teachers, the office staff, Rabbi Zalman, our parents, and all the volunteers for your support and kindness over the years.

We will miss you, Mount Sinai and we will never forget you! Next year, although we will no longer be here, our hearts will forever stay.

From your Head Madrichim of 2024, Aidan Shulkin and Ellie Clifford.

Parents Association President – Lior Nickig

Reflecting on this year, our shared commitment to building a strong and connected community stands out strongly. Together, we have celebrated successes and navigated challenges, with a spirit of collaboration and mutual support. It is clear that our shared dedication is the strength of our community.

We started the year with the **Pesach Seders**. Beautifully coordinated by the College and parents, the Seders brought the entire school community together for a memorable experience.

Our **Mother's Day** celebration was all about creativity, fun and connection. Mums and their children came together to decorate cupcakes, creating sweet treats and memories. Each family also had the chance to personalise beautiful boxes in which to take home their cupcakes and the event included a quiz where mums and kids teamed up, shared laughs, and learned new things. It was a wonderful opportunity to bond and celebrate the amazing mothers in our community.

For **Father's Day**, fathers and children enjoyed a morning filled with fun as they crafted, decorated and flew their paper planes together while enjoying cookies and juice. It was a simple yet meaningful opportunity for dads and their kids to celebrate together, and it brought such joy to see the creativity and laughter filling the room.

In addition to our big events, we had several successful initiatives this year that contributed to strengthening community. This year we introduced our **Communi-Tea** events, a chance for parents to come together, share a cup of tea and engage in meaningful conversations led by parents in our community. Whether it was a casual chat or deeper discussion, these gatherings helped foster the relationships that make our community so special. Additionally, the **Year Group Get Togethers** strengthened ties with each year level, bringing families together and creating new friendships.

The **Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls** were a hit giving our children the opportunity to select thoughtful gifts for their parents while also learning about the joy of giving. Each term, **Hot Dog Day** brought a lot of excitement, with students (teachers and volunteers!) eagerly awaiting the delicious lunch. The **Second Hand Uniform Sales** was another great success, providing families with access to affordable good quality uniforms whilst also promoting sustainability within our community. The **Father Figure Alliance** arranged a discussion facilitated by psychologist about the importance of father figures in children's lives and the typical challenges which father's and father figures experience. All these events showcase the amazing teamwork and spirit that makes our school unique.

One of the most heartfelt initiatives we continued this year was the **Yachad Meals**. These meals lovingly prepared by members of our school community, were delivered to families who had experienced a bereavement, welcomed a new baby, or simply needed a little extra support during challenging times. The compassion that went into every meal embodied the spirit of togetherness and kindness that defines our school. Through these meals, we were able to provide comfort and reminded families that they are never alone, we're all here for one another.

This year, we launched the **Wait Mate Campaign**, a movement empowering parents to hit pause on smartphones until at least high school and many parents have taken the pledge to delay using smartphones.

None of these incredible events would have been possible without the dedication of our incredible PA Leadership Team and volunteers. From organising events, communications and managing logistics, their effort has been the backbone of the PA's success. We have a strong partnership with Noelene, Garron and Rozanna, teachers and staff, as well as the Board whose guidance, support and teamwork has enabled the success of this year. A heartfelt thanks to Kirsti Fox for her steadfast commitment and generous support of the PA which provides a strong, kind and calm foundation that is deeply valued by us all. This collaboration has been pivotal in forging a strong, vibrant community and I am so proud of everything we have accomplished together. As I reflect on my first year as PA President, I am especially touched by the warmth and support extended to me by many of you.

It is this collective dedication that is the true heart and soul of bringing our community together and on the next page you'll find a list of more than 100 parents and family members who gave their time this year (correct at the time of writing this message). I want to express my deepest thanks to each and every person who has been involved - thank you for your time, energy and commitment.

Lior

Theme 2: Outcomes & results

2024

School facts

School sector	Non-government
School type	Primary
Year range	K-6
Location	Major Cities

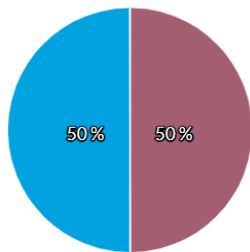
School staff

Teaching staff	22
Full-time equivalent teaching staff	21.0
Non-teaching staff	23
Full-time equivalent non-teaching staff	18.6

Students

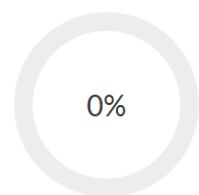
Total enrolments:
288

- Boys 143
- Girls 145



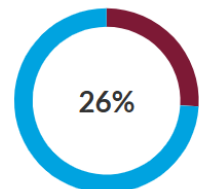
Full-time equivalent enrolments: 288.0

Indigenous students



Language background other than English

- Yes (26%)
- No (74%)
- Not stated (0%)

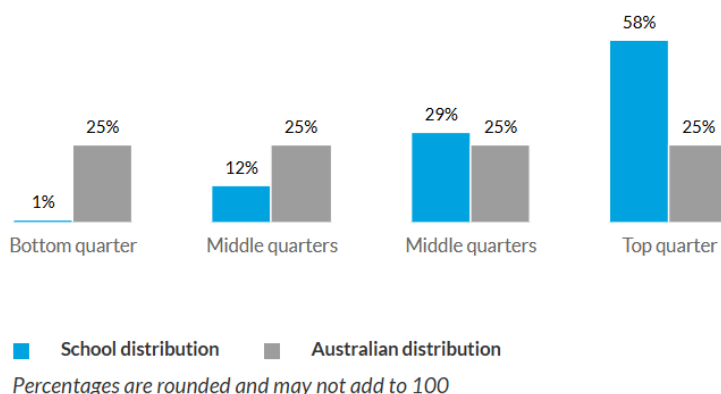


Student background

Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA)

School ICSEA value	1152
Average ICSEA value	1000
School ICSEA percentile	96

Distribution of Socio-Educational Advantage (SEA)



2024 Student NAPLAN Results

The College maintains a proud academic tradition and the 2024 NAPLAN results confirm, once again, the standard of excellence for which Mount Sinai College has become renowned.

Our school prides itself on implementing dynamic and formative assessments, not merely summative assessment methods. We also measure students' wellbeing and ensure our teaching and learning environment encourages curiosity and critical thinking.

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
Year 3	465	456	460	465	434
Year 5	540	524	514	547	551

Further information on student achievement can be found at <http://www.myschool.edu.au>

Interpreting the table

Selected school's average when compared to all Australian students.

- Well above
- Above
- Close to
- Below
- Well below

Theme 3: Staffing

Workforce composition

Type	Gender	All Staff		Indigenous	
		# of Staff	FTE	# of Staff	FTE
Principal	Female	1	1.0	0	0
Teaching Staff	Male	4	4.0		
	Female	21	19.40		
Specialist Support	Female	6	4.56		
Administration & Clerical	Male	2	2.0		
	Female	11	8.69		
Total		45	39.64		

Excludes Jewish Studies Teachers and Early Learning Centre staff.

Teacher accreditation

Level of accreditation	Number of Teachers
Conditional	3
Provisional	2
Proficient Teacher	23
Highly Accomplished Teacher (voluntary accreditation)	0
Lead Teacher (voluntary accreditation)	0
Total number of teachers	28

Excludes Early Learning staff.

At our school we embrace all faiths and backgrounds for all our staff and students. None of our staff members have identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, but we strongly encourage applications from First Nations and staff of other faiths.

Theme 4: Student attendance rates

Year Level	Attendance Rate %
Kindergarten	95.29%
Year 1	96.82%
Year 2	95.43%
Year 3	95.76%
Year 4	94.62%
Year 5	96.03%
Year 6	96.05%

Year Level	Attendance Rate %
Whole School	95.67%

Management of non-attendance

Mount Sinai College has processes in place for monitoring student attendance data. In 2024, 95.67% of students attended school each day on average. This is a 4.29% increase on the daily attendance in 2023.

The College has implemented the following systems and procedures in order to monitor the daily attendance of students and identify absences from the College:

- Student attendance to be recorded in TASS by the class teacher.
- Late arrivals scan their student ID card at reception to register their attendance. The machine will print a late ticket, which they will then give to their teacher.
- Early departures are recorded at reception by the parent and entered by the Receptionist.
- Parents record the reason for student absence via the TASS parent portal.
- Receptionists accept or decline the reasons provided for student absence. Any absence without a valid reason will result in the absence being recorded as an unjustified absence.

The College has implemented the following systems and procedures to follow up on unexplained absences from school:

- The classroom teacher will call or email the parents in the event of unexplained absences.
- The receptionist will follow up in the event of continued unexplained absences.
- Any written or emailed absence explanations will be saved in TASS.

- The Principal will be notified by the office team of unusual or unexplained absences.
- Absences longer than 4 days for the purpose of travel require an Extended Leave Travel Form to be completed by a student's parents. If the travel is for an approved reason, a student will be issued a Certificate of Extended Leave Travel. The absence will be recorded as Leave. If the leave is declined, the family will be issued with a letter of decline, and the absence will be recorded as unjustified/unapproved on TASS. These completed documents are stored on the student's TASS file.

Unsatisfactory Attendance Intervention Strategies

The College has implemented the following strategies to improve unsatisfactory attendance and student engagement in school and learning:

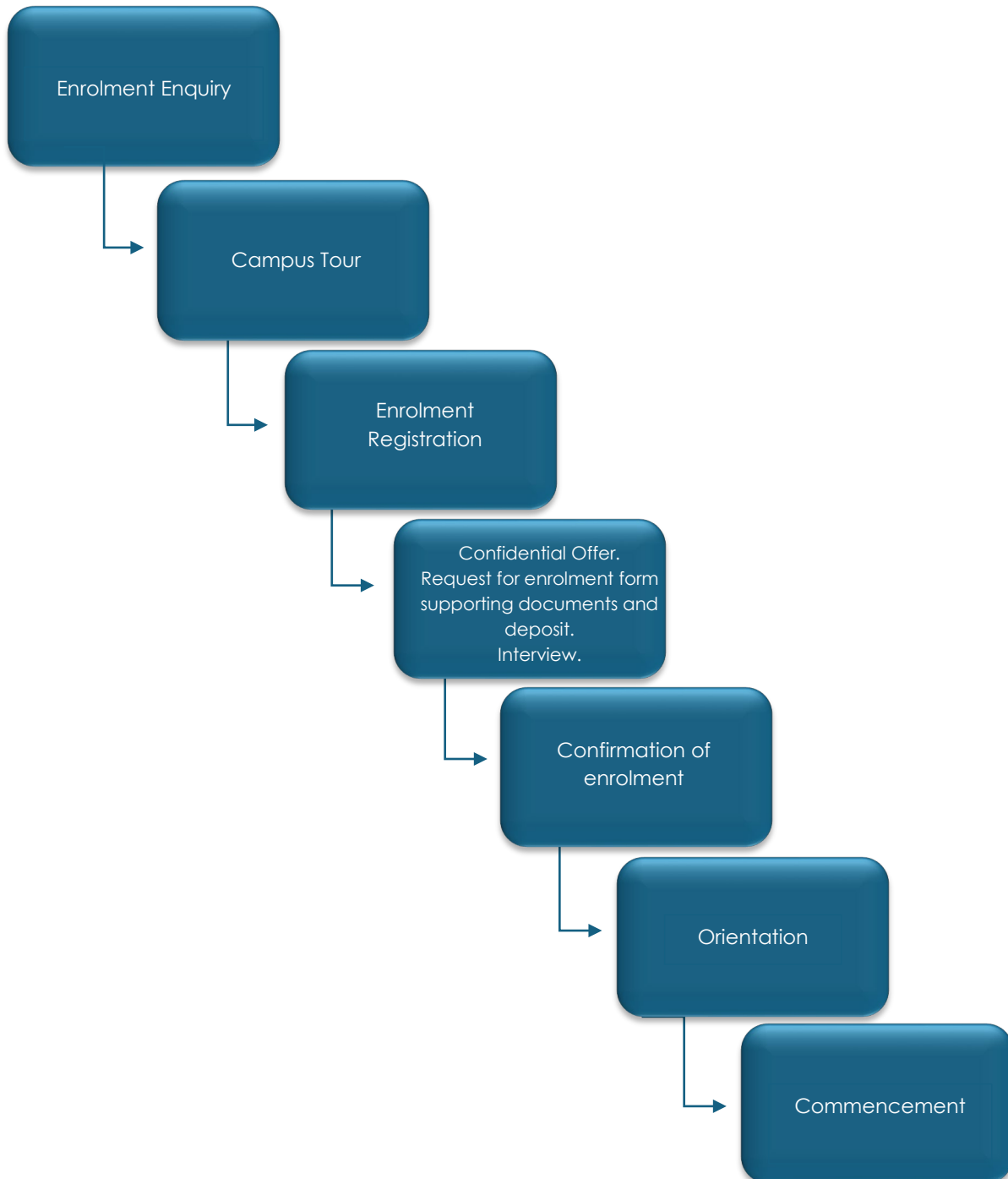
- The Deputy Principal will call the family if a child has several short- or long-term unexplained absences.
- The Principal will establish if the reasons are legitimate and discuss with the College's psychologist if there are concerns.
- Continued absence may trigger mandatory reporting.
- School refusal issues will be dealt with by consulting the family and working closely with the College's psychologist and / or external psychologist/support network. A student Attendance Improvement Plan will be formulated in consultation with the family and relevant staff.

Additional data information on attendance is available on the My School website ([Home | My School](#))



Theme 5: School Policies

Enrolment Policy



How to Enrol

Part 1: Enrolment Registration

The first step is to complete the Enrolment Registration (with supporting documentation) and pay a non-refundable registration fee of \$30 per student. Once received, your child's name will be registered for consideration of a place.

This includes registration for the Early Learning Centre (ELC), Preparatory (Prep) or Years K to 6. Registration can take place any time after a child is born. Although our major intake levels are at ELC and Kindergarten, we accept students in all years, provided places are available. Mid-year registrations are also considered.

Once received, the College will provide an acknowledgement and receipt.

Enrolment registration does not guarantee entry or acceptance of a place at Mount Sinai College. Offers to apply for enrolment will be made as vacancies occur, per procedures and policies determined by the Board of Management and Principal. Please refer to the Registration Forms below to view the Enrolment Policy, Procedures and Conditions of Entry.

- [ELC Registration \(includes Puggles, Joeys & Prep\)](#)
- [K-6 Registration](#)

Part 2: Enrolment Application

In the year prior to the child's expected start date (or sooner if mid-year) and depending on the number of places available, parents/guardians may be sent an offer by the College to apply for enrolment. This second step will require the following:

- the submission of a completed Enrolment Application and any supporting documentation,
- an interview with the Principal or ELC & Prep Director,
- and payment of a non-refundable enrolment deposit. (This deposit will be deducted from a child's first term's fees once they commence in K-6).

Following this, you will be notified if your Enrolment Application has been successful, and if so, the College will provide confirmation. Once confirmed, a child's enrolment at the College is continuous until the completion of Year 6 unless otherwise advised.

Other School Policies

The following school policies are publicly available on the website:

- [Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy](#)
- [Child Safe Policy](#)
- [Complaints Handling Policy](#)
- [Contractor Policy](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Welfare Policy](#)
- [Whistleblower Policy](#)
- [Attendance Policy & Procedures](#)
- [Enrolment Policies](#)
- [Welfare Policy](#)

Theme 6: Stakeholder satisfaction

The College adheres to an 'Open Door' policy and welcomes parents to become involved in the operations of the College through Board membership, Board sub-committees and the Parents' Association.

The level of parental involvement is high, which allows for regular feedback through informal channels as well as formal meetings.

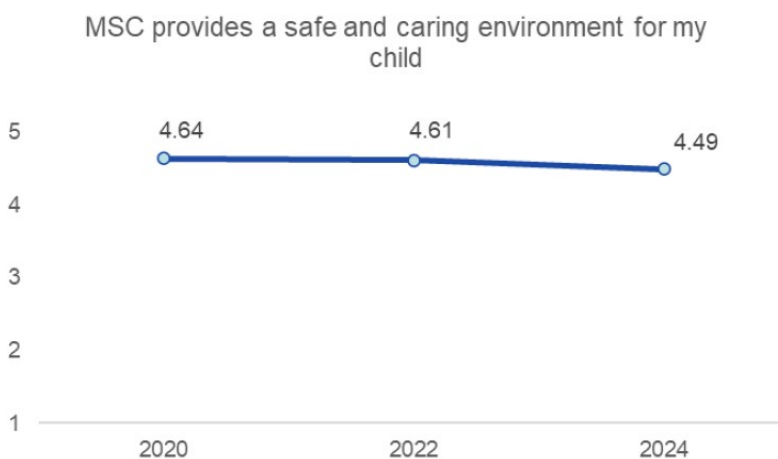
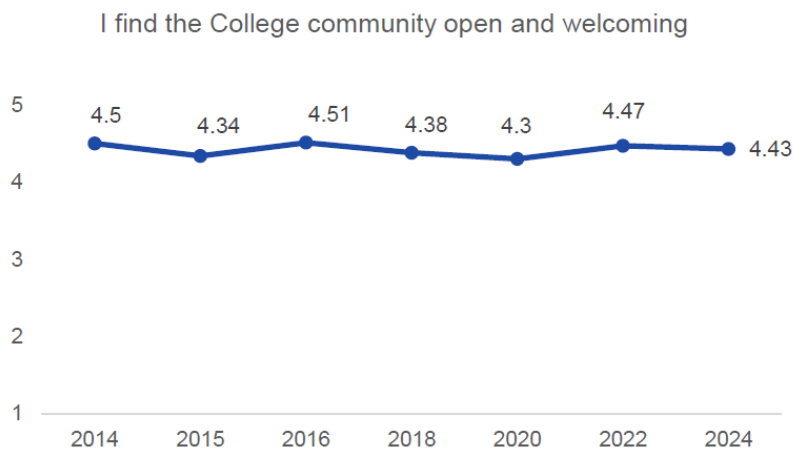
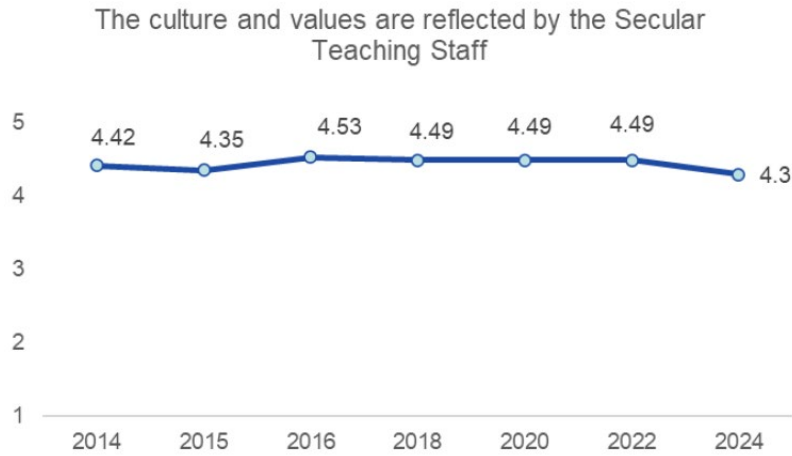
Every two years, the College also conducts a comprehensive survey – a process that is outsourced. Results of the survey are made widely available to parents. Improvement targets are determined as a result.

The survey questions focus on the following main areas:

- Cultures and Values
- Learning
- Emotional well-being and mental health
- Facilities
- Co-curricular programs
- Communication
- Parent's Association and the Board



The College conducted this in-depth survey in 2024, with a selection of results below.



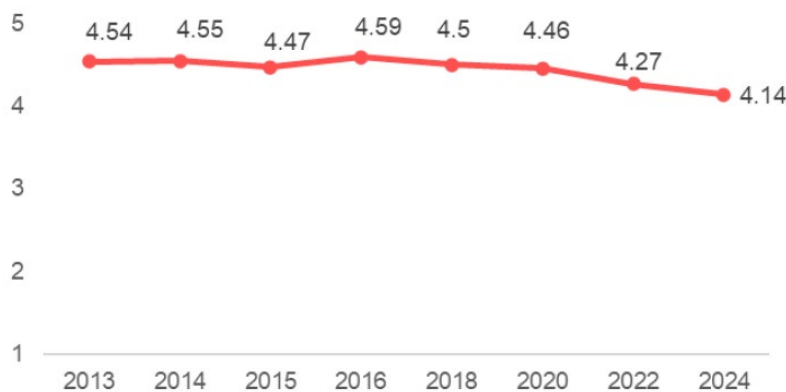
In what ways do you see the 6 Kinds of Best exemplified in school practice?

"I see this in the intentional teaching and development of these values"

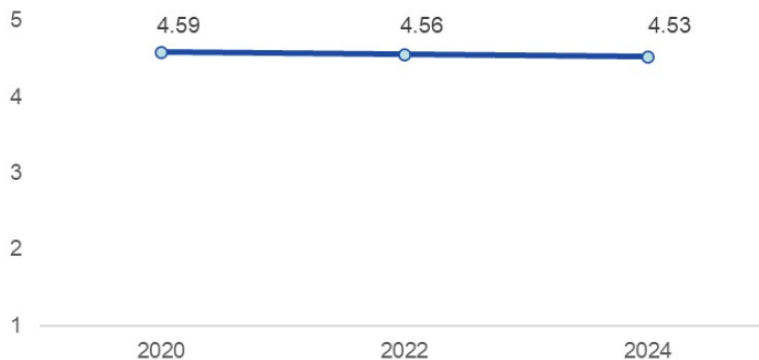
"They are clearly embedded into nearly every aspect of school life. From the reward and recognition programs to the celebrations, from the peer support to the buddy program. It is even being demonstrated by the way the enroll Foundation has been structured"

"The six kinds of bests are laced through the school on a daily basis. They are emphasised consistently through the week and are seen in practice"

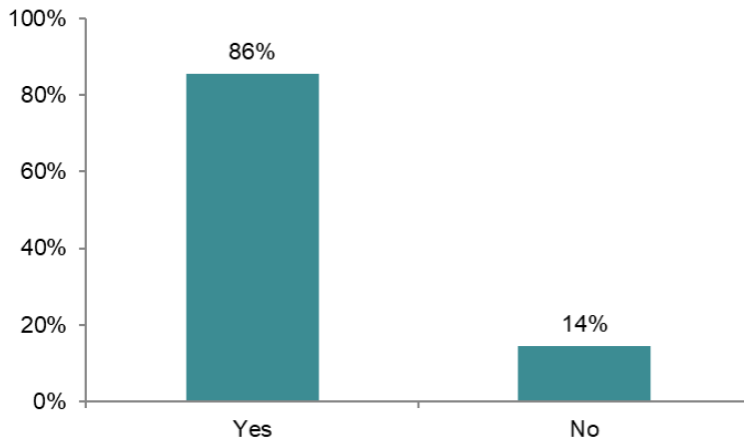
MSC offers a high standard of secular education



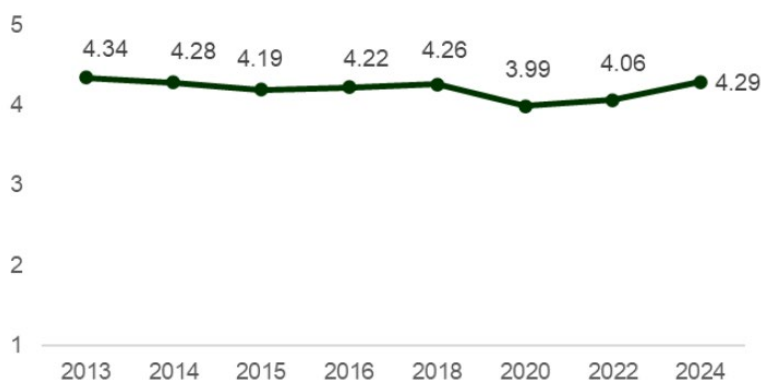
My child's teacher cares about my child



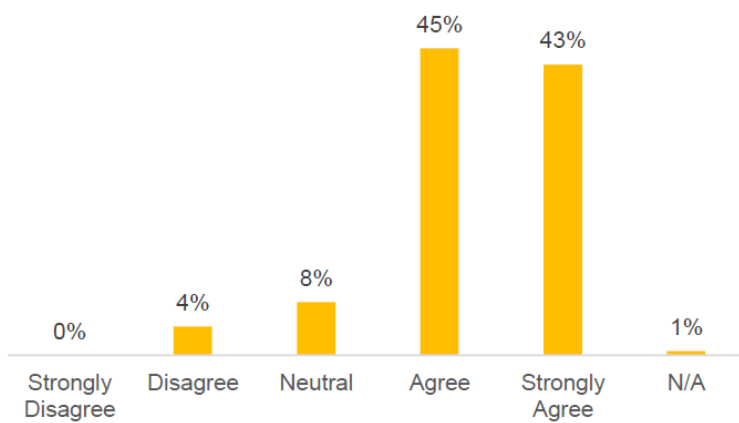
Did you attend one or more MSC parent information events in the past 1-2 years?



There are adequate opportunities to get involved with the PA's activities



Overall, I am satisfied with the College



Following the analysis of this survey, short-term improvement targets were set. Longer term goals were also created for inclusion in the College 2025-2028 Strategic Plan.

Staff Satisfaction

The College Board holds our staff in high-regard and have the desire to be considered an employer of choice. As such a Staff Satisfaction Survey was conducted with the following take-aways.

- 100% of our employees enjoy working with their colleagues
- 96% of our staff enjoy our culture
- 98% of staff feel their work is meaningful
- 83% of staff feel their colleagues work well as a team
- 56% of staff feel that we provide adequate support for mental health and wellbeing.

It is heartwarming to see that our staff are happy and enjoy their work as we know that passionate educators inspire children. Following the low results around mental health support, we engaged an EAP counselling service for staff. All staff are now able to access a bank of mental health and wellbeing resources and a free counselling service.

In addition to the surveys there are many occasions throughout the year that promote social cohesion and ultimately provide feedback. Such occasions include:

- Grade evenings – a forum for discussing with parents the educational program for that particular year level.
- Parent teacher interviews – conducted twice a year.
- PA Meetings that are open to all parents.
- Staff Meetings

Student Satisfaction

Teachers completed several smaller surveys around student mental health and wellbeing. Our weekly Wellbeing Meeting continued to provide support for students and families. This committee also investigated a more thorough Wellbeing check-in which will be implemented in 2025.

The more intimate environment at the College continues to allow us the opportunity to probe student satisfaction and wellbeing on a regular basis.

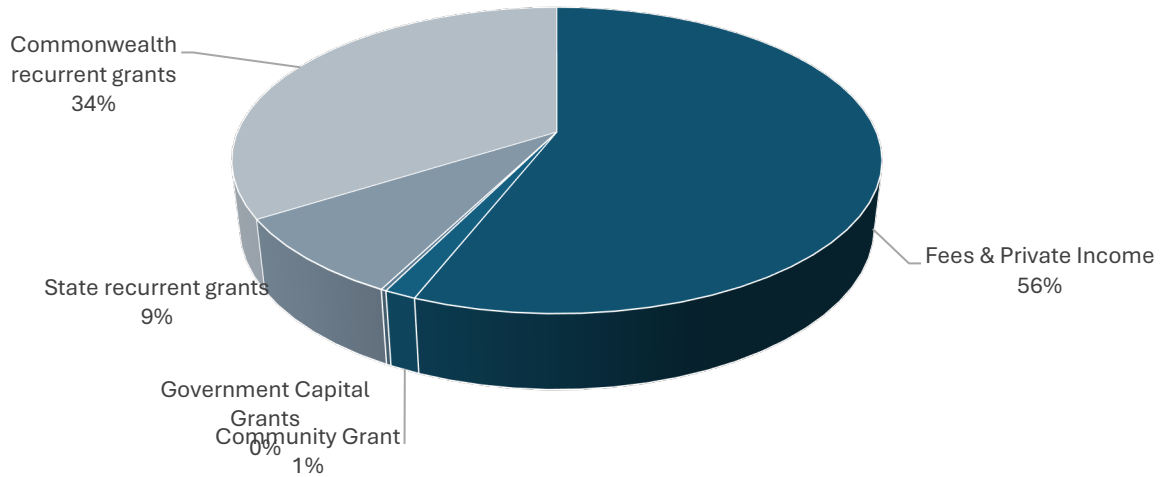
Theme 7: Summary financial information

Mount Sinai College is a proud member of the JCA Family of Communal Organisations.

The JCA provides Mount Sinai College with a generous annual allocation, enabling the College to offer financial assistance to families in need. We deeply value our long-standing partnership with the JCA. For over 30 years, their generosity has helped make the dream of a Jewish education a reality for many families in our community.



Recurrent/capital income



Recurrent/capital expenditure

