Program for Language Acquisition and Cultural Engagement (PLACE)

St Leonard's College

Our Program for Language Acquisition and Cultural Engagement (PLACE) supports students from non-English speaking backgrounds to transition from living and learning in their home country, to moving into mainstream classes at St Leonard's College and life in Australia.

Student induction

The induction process for international students commences after accepting a Letter of Offer. Contact will be established between the student, teaching and pastoral staff to facilitate a smooth transition into life at the College and settling into living and learning in Australia.

English as an Additional Language Classes (EAL) and ongoing learning support

The EAL program is scheduled as part of PLACE within the regular College timetable. During their program, students are assisted with the selection of subjects, attend assemblies, are a member of a Mentor Group and participate in the College's wide range of cocurricular programs. International students also continue to receive support from their teachers until graduation, after which they automatically become an Old Collegian – the College's alumni program.

As part of a student's application, an <u>AEAS test</u> result is required. The result determines whether enrolment in the College's English as an Additional Language program is required, and which macro skills might need to be concentrated upon, i.e. reading, writing, listening, speaking and vocabulary.

Mentor Program

Every student is part of a mentor group: a group of students who have regular contact with a pastoral teacher (their mentor) who focuses on each individual student according to their interests, abilities and potential for personal growth. Mentors work closely with their students daily and cultivate the pivotal staff-student-parent relationships for students to realise their potential as resilient learners and responsible citizens.

The College is deeply committed to creating an environment that supports the discovery of our students' 'intellectual character.' We recognise the seriousness of our responsibility to regularly review who our students are becoming as thinkers and learners, as a consequence of their time at the College. St Leonard's College is at the forefront of the latest research and education methods designed to teach students how to think effectively.

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Accommodation

St Leonard's College is responsible for the welfare and accommodation of all students studying at the College on a student visa. The College requires that all international students live with their family or with a close family relative who must be over 25 years old and approved as suitable by the Department of Home Affairs as part of the student's visa approval.

International Student Committee

The Committee is dedicated to assisting new international students to establish a sense of belonging. The International Student Committee supports international students in creating a culturally inclusive and welcoming environment where students can proudly share their heritage by fostering connections between students from different cultural backgrounds.

International students enrolled at the College are not required to pay additional fees for PLACE.

For further information, please refer to our International Student Fees and Charges document.

Support for Parents and Guardians

English Language Conversation Club

An English Language Conversation Club meets on alternate weeks during term time. Parents and family members of current students are welcome to join. These sessions allow parents to practise the English language skills necessary to engage with Australian society and socialise with other parents.

We encourage parents to practise conversational English while introducing elements of Australian society, culture and customs in an interactive and supportive environment. Topics include greetings, conversational English, shopping, health, making appointments, filling out paperwork, transport, food, writing emails and other relevant topics.

International Friends Group

The International Friends Group supports parents moving into the area from overseas and interstate and Australians returning home after living overseas.

A private Facebook page has been set up to connect families, and many social activities are planned throughout the year.