PRIMARY SCHOOL FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

These are the current FAQs on the Reopening of the Loreto Normanhurst Primary School. We will continue to add to these FAQs, so please continue to check the Primary School section of the Loreto Normanhurst website.

Why is Loreto Normanhurst re-opening its Primary School?
Loreto Normanhurst had a Primary School on campus until 1983. Due to the proposed opening of a Parish School in the Normanhurst area we were asked to close our school. The Parish School did not eventuate which resulted in a reduced choice of primary schooling for students in the local area.

As a leading Catholic Independent Day and Boarding School for Girls we believe that we have much to offer in the Primary School realm. Our award winning Loreto Normanhurst Student Growth Model (LNSGM) will translate well to a Primary School context and offer a rich learning environment for younger students.

How many places will be on offer?
Our initial aim is to provide up to two classes of 25 students in each of Year 5 and Year 6.

Is the Primary School going to become a full K-6 Primary School?
We are currently only working on Years 5 and 6 but there will be future planning for an expansion.

What are the plans to transition the Year 6 students into High School?
We currently have an outstanding orientation process and will be working with an advisory panel with a wealth of knowledge and experience in Primary education, Pastoral Care and Learning to develop a supportive and inclusive orientation and transition process.

Can you give me an indication of the Enrolment Guidelines?
Loreto Normanhurst is an open entry school (that is, there is no entrance test). The Loreto Normanhurst Enrolment Guidelines will be followed for families wishing for a place in the Primary School, as it is for the Secondary School.

The school currently bases its decision on enrolment on congruence of values. This is established via:

a) A Family Interview where either the Principal or a member of the Leadership Team will discern more fully if there is congruence between the family and with the school’s mission;

b) A range of paperwork including references for the family and the student as well as documentation on a student’s current sacraments.
Placing congruence of values as the criteria for enrolment has meant that the school has a very supportive, cohesive and faith filled community.

What if I am unsuccessful in gaining a place in the Primary School for Year 5? Will I still be eligible for a place in Year 7?

After the interview process has been completed, and if the School is unable to offer a place for the Primary School, an advanced offer for Year 7, two years later, may be made.

Will you be accepting Boarders into Years 5 and 6?

Arrangements for Boarding in the Primary School are still under consideration at this early stage.

How will the Primary School be staffed?

Each Primary School class will have a dedicated classroom teacher assigned. In addition to the class teacher the Primary School students will have access to specialist teachers from the High School as well as the assistance of a Teacher’s Aide.

What will be the Primary School Hours?

Class will commence at 8:45am and finish at 3:00pm each day.
Primary School students will need to be on campus at approximately 8:30am each day.

Will Loreto Normanhurst be providing Before and After School Care?

Loreto Normanhurst currently does not have a Before and After School Care program. However, we understand the needs of busy families and anticipate that if sufficient demand exists we will offer a quality service in a safe environment.

What are the School Fees for Years 5 and 6?

The School Council is committed to keeping fees as low as possible while ensuring the continued financial viability of the School, and fees are set with a view to sustain the School over a period of time. The School acknowledges the commitment made by parents who have chosen to send their daughters to Loreto Normanhurst and tuition fees for Year 5 and Year 6 for 2015 have been set at $15,200.

Will there be a School Uniform, and will it be very different to the Year 7 Uniform?

The uniform is based on that of the Secondary School with minor variations in accessories. Therefore, the majority of the uniform ensemble can be worn in both Primary and High School with only slight changes required for each stage. Our Uniform Shop onsite can provide all uniform requirements, except shoes. The Shop is open each day, as well as some designated days prior to the commencement of the new school year or by prior arrangement for new students enrolling at short notice. For your convenience orders can also be placed online through the Flexischools website.

What type of Facilities will be available to the Primary School students?

The Primary School students will have access to dedicated Primary School classrooms, a Primary Learning Common, a covered outdoor learning area, an external soft fall playground area, a dedicated grassed oval as well as access to the senior school facilities. These include specialist Science
laboratories, specialist Music facilities, a Gymnasium, indoor pool and extensive playing fields. The Learning Resource Centre (Library) will also be available to the Primary School to supplement the resources held in their Learning Common. The Primary School will have its own Primary School Reception area on the Mount Pleasant Avenue side of the school. The Health and Wellness Centre, staffed with professional Nurses and Counselors will also be available to the Primary School students.

My daughter occasionally has to purchase her lunch at school. Will there be a Tuckshop she can access? Our Tuckshop and Café are managed by an award winning catering company whose chefs prepare the freshest and healthiest meals onsite. They operate under the strict guidelines of the Compass Group Dietician and offer a broad range of nutritious, varied, healthy and tasty foods. The Tuckshop adheres to our school’s ‘nut aware’ policy and offers freshly prepared meals with different choices every day as well as gluten free options. Primary School students will be able to order their lunch and it will be picked up and delivered to the Primary School precinct. Our Tuckshop has also teamed up with Flexischools to offer a convenient and easy to use online ordering service.

How will Learning and the Curriculum be structured? The Primary School program will be challenging and engaging with teaching and learning programs that promote holistic growth. Teachers will plan rich and varied learning opportunities, encompassing the full breadth of the NSW Board of Studies Syllabi. Where appropriate, the Primary School teachers will design learning experiences in collaboration with Loreto Normanhurst subject specialist teachers. The use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology) will be deeply embedded in all programs to develop key skills for 21st Century learners.

Loreto Normanhurst currently teaches French and Italian in the Secondary School and would provide opportunities for primary school students to learn a language. The inclusion of other foreign languages is still in the planning stages. Students in the Primary School will study Religious Education as part of their program and will be encouraged to be a part of the Faith life of the school.

Extension activities such as the Premier’s Reading Challenge, Mathematics Olympiad and Premier’s Spelling Bee will also be offered in the Primary School.

Will the students be using a Laptop in class? Learning devices will be incorporated into classroom activities and we are researching best practice and investigating approaches that are aligned with Loreto’s culture of learning.

Will there be any Extra-curricular subjects for the students to choose? Loreto Normanhurst has a rich Extra-curricular program for all students. The Primary School students will be able to participate in a wide variety of activities if they choose to do so. These include:

- Sport, both competitive and recreational
- Speech & Drama
- Music program with visiting specialist instrumental teachers
- Oratory – Debating, Public speaking

Will the school have a Gifted and Talented program and support for students with specific learning needs? Loreto Normanhurst has a professionally staffed Learning Enrichment Faculty. These specialists will work closely with the Primary School teachers to provide appropriate support for all students, no matter where they are on the learning spectrum.
Will the Year 5 and 6 students be going on any overnight Camps or Retreats?
The NSW Board of Studies Syllabi mandates certain experiences for Years 5 and 6. Loreto Normanhurst students will fulfill all of these requirements, but will have the added dimension of reflective practices in the Mary Ward and Ignatian tradition.

How will the Pastoral Care structures work in the Primary School?
The classroom teacher is the primary pastoral carer for students in Years 5 and 6. Having contact with the students for most of the day means they are best placed to provide appropriate care and support. The students will also be assigned to a colour “House” and this is the basis for them to build a sense of community and school spirit. Experienced staff in the senior school will also be available for support when required, as will the School Counselling team. A Buddy system will operate between Primary and Secondary school students and the usual peer support and peer mediation programs will be in place.

Will there be opportunities for Student Leadership in the Primary School?
Leadership of all types is encouraged at Loreto Normanhurst. We have a great role model in our Founder, Mary Ward, and also other IBVM (Loreto) Sisters who have been part of our school over the past 116 years. A Primary School SRC (Student Representative Council) will be formed to give a large number of students leadership experience.

My daughter is very interested in Social Justice. Will there be an opportunity for her to be involved in Social Justice activities?
Social Justice is a very large part of a Loreto education. Age appropriate activities will be in place for the Primary School students and the opportunity to show leadership in this area will be encouraged. Fundraising for Caritas Australia, putting together Christmas Hampers for those less fortunate or learning to knit colourful woollen squares for Wrapped With Love will all be on offer, plus many more Social Justice activities.

Transport and travel in Sydney is an issue. What are the transport options for the Primary School?
Loreto Normanhurst is well located for transport options in this corner of the Sydney Basin.

If you are coming by car there is a dedicated right-hand turn lane at traffic lights into Osborn Rd off Pennant Hills Rd. Cars then enter the Slip Road off Osborn and drop students safely within the school grounds. The Oval Carpark has space for 60 vehicles on a casual parking basis if you are here for a meeting with a teacher.

If your Primary School student is travelling with an elder sister by train, the station is approximately 400 metres away and students cross Pennant Hills Road via the overhead footbridge which brings them safely into the school grounds.
Loreto Normanhurst has its own private bus service using 25-seater buses, all of which are fitted with seatbelts. The private bus routes are as follows:

- **LANE COVE / GLADESVILLE / RYDE ROUTE**
  Commences at Lane Cove and travels through Drummoyne, Hunters Hill, Gladesville, North Ryde, West Pymble, South Turramurra before proceeding to Loreto Normanhurst.

- **MOSMAN AND LOWER NORTH SHORE ROUTE**
  Commences at Mosman and travels through Northbridge, Willoughby, Roseville, East Killara, St Ives, Turramurra before proceeding to Loreto Normanhurst.

- **ROUSE HILL / GLENHAVEN / HILLS DISTRICT ROUTE**
  Commences at Rouse Hill and travels through Glenhaven, Dural, Cherrybrook, West Pennant Hills before proceeding to Loreto Normanhurst.

The school is also well serviced by Government Bus routes coming from Wahroonga Station, The Hills District, Dural and along Pennant Hills Road towards Parramatta.

I enjoy being part of my current Primary School Parent Community. How will I be able to get involved at Loreto Normanhurst?

Loreto Normanhurst encourages parental involvement and will seek assistance in the Tuckshop, the Uniform Shop and the classroom throughout the year. At the Primary School level we will be working with the parent body to build connections between parents of students in the same Year Group as this is a great protective factor for girls. Opportunities to assist at the Tuckshop, the Uniform Shop and in the classroom will be available for parents. Loreto Normanhurst has a very active Parent Association which fosters friendship and community through the organisation of events including the Spring Fair, Trivia Night and Parent Dinners.

It’s a little bit into the future, but will there be a Graduation Ceremony for the students at the end of Year 6?

The transition to High School is an important step for our students. The completion of their Primary Schooling will be marked with a number of celebrations, both formal and informal, so the students are prepared for the next step in their education.

For any other enquiries, please email: primary@loretonh.nsw.edu.au