



McGinn Road  
 Ferry Grove Qld 4055  
 Ph 3550 5777  
 Fax 3550 5700

[www.fernygroveshs.eq.edu.au](http://www.fernygroveshs.eq.edu.au)  
 email: [info@fernycroveshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:info@fernycroveshs.eq.edu.au)  
[www.facebook.com/FerryGroveSHS](https://www.facebook.com/FerryGroveSHS)  
 Executive Principal: Mark Breckenridge

# Ferry Grove State High School

## Junior Secondary Philosophy

Our philosophy is based around the provision of a seamless curriculum supported by strong, positive relationships with increased opportunities and learning outcomes for students.

Our aim is to maintain student enthusiasm for learning and build self-esteem so that school and learning is a positive and meaningful experience for all.

### Distinct identity

Ferry Grove State High School students are supported to develop their own group identity within the broader school community, and have a strong sense of belonging through ownership of their school and their learning. Students achieve their individual potential, incorporating the school values of *Learning, Respect, Community and Creativity*.

- o Refurbished classrooms and flexible learning area
- o Form Group rooms within the Year 7 precinct
- o Designated undercover and eating areas exclusively for Year 7s
- o Orientation Week at the start of 2015 to provide opportunities to settle in and develop relationships with peers, staff and Year 11 representatives
- o Core teacher for Form Group and Pastoral Care who will remain with the student from Years 7-12
- o Year 7 camp initiating the school's leadership development and wellbeing program
- o A strong focus on the development of group identity whilst fostering a sense of belonging and connectedness to the whole school (e.g. generating House spirit through team-building activities)

### Quality teaching

The learning and achievement of Junior Secondary students is supported by highly skilled teachers with pedagogical knowledge, practice and breadth of curriculum experiences appropriate for this age group.

- o Teachers use the Dimensions of Learning as a teaching and learning framework utilising a common language and consistent quality practices.
- o Continued rollout of 1:1 student devices to promote digital learning
- o Core teacher for Form Group and Pastoral Care
- o Full complement of Secondary Curriculum subjects
- o Specialist teachers for LOTE, Arts, Health & Physical Education, Technology and Instrumental Music
- o Special Education Program
- o Support Teacher - Literary and Numeracy
- o Opportunities for in-depth study and extension in languages (German Immersion), Science/Agriculture, Creative Arts and Sport Excellence programs
- o Each classroom will have state-of-the-art technology supporting student engagement in the teaching and learning process
- o Opportunities for the development of cross-curricular integrated projects in flexible learning spaces
- o Access to specialist laboratories, workshops, kitchens and creative arts spaces
- o We are working closely with primary schools to ensure curriculum continuity for students

### Leadership

Leadership opportunities for staff and students are delivered through strong school leadership and a focus on support for Junior Secondary students.

- o Year 7 leadership opportunities:
  - Junior Student Representative Council
  - Junior Secondary Leaders
  - Sports house leaders
  - Music leaders
  - Faculty Ambassadors
- o Teacher leadership is also being fostered through collaboration by teachers in the development of the best approaches to teaching and learning in Junior Secondary





## Student Wellbeing

Student wellbeing builds a foundation of success by embedding social and personal competencies across all facets of school life; incorporating a healthy lifestyle of good nutrition and exercise.

- o A smooth transition from primary school and to promote student wellbeing will:
  - improve academic performance;
  - increase student participation in school activities;
  - enable students to experience success; and
  - foster enjoyment at high school.
- o This will be achieved by:
  - shared curriculum opportunities, e.g. Science
  - community information events;
  - visits to Year 6 classrooms;
  - Orientation Days before entering high school
  - Orientation Week activities at the beginning of the year.
- o Student support includes:
  - Daily contact with a Form Group teacher and core teachers who will monitor student progress and wellbeing;
  - Year 11 Representatives to mentor students and be a point of contact;
  - Senior staff support, e.g. Year 7 Deputy Principal, Guidance Officers, Head of Junior Secondary & Year Level Coordinator;
  - Student Support Services, e.g. Chaplain, Nurse, Youth Support Worker
- o Student Wellbeing (pastoral care) program promoting and supporting:
  - social and emotional skills
  - resilience
  - learning capacity
  - core school values - **Learning, Respect, Community, Creativity**

## Connecting our Community

A strong reciprocal partnership is built upon our core school values. There is a range of opportunities for parents and community to shape the Junior Secondary model.

- o Parents and Citizens' Association
- o School Council
- o Parent Support Groups - Instrumental Music, Languages
- o Year 7 2015 Parent Reference Group
- o Regular cluster meetings with the primary principals will ensure that the curriculum structure is developed in consultation with the feeder primary schools and in response to feedback from local communities.
- o Build on existing primary-secondary experiences through the delivery of LOTE, Instrumental Music, Science, Maths and Sport Development programs
- o Parent consultation:
  - forums in primary schools
  - parent reference group
  - email and website updates, Facebook

For further information please contact:

Mr Mark Breckenridge, Executive Principal – email

[the.principal@fernygroveshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:the.principal@fernygroveshs.eq.edu.au)

Mrs Hayley Williamson, Head of Junior Secondary - email

[hwill308@eq.edu.au](mailto:hwill308@eq.edu.au)

Phone 3550 5777

[www.fernygroveshs.eq.edu.au](http://www.fernygroveshs.eq.edu.au)

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