

East Doncaster Secondary College



OPEN NIGHT 2025

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How many classes do you run at Year 7?

In 2025 we ran 20 Year 7 classes. The number of classes are determined by enrolment offers.

How many students in a class?

We do our best to ensure that there are no more than 25 students in a class. We do try to keep classes below this. Our two ALPHA classes have 25 students in them.

Can we enrol if EDSC is not our nearest school?

Our school receives a large volume of enrolment requests every year and under instruction from the Department of Education (DE) we have an Enrolment Management Implementation Plan in place. This means that enrolment numbers are restricted. The approved Year 7 entry criteria for EDSC for the 2026 school year are:

- Students who live within the school zone
- Students with a sibling attending the school at the same time (priority 1)
- Students seeking enrolment on legitimate compassionate grounds.

Please note that in considering applications for EDSC for 2026 (including ALPHA) we will follow the DE Priority of Placement.

Do you have Feeder Primary Schools?

While EDSC has strong relationships with local primary schools, we do not have particular primary schools (feeder primary schools) that facilitate guaranteed placement of pupils to EDSC upon reaching secondary school age. Priority order of placement is determined by DE guidelines and applies to Year 6 to Year 7 transition.

Is there a waiting list for enrolment?

No, government secondary schools do not have waiting lists.

Is ALPHA a way to get in if EDSC is not my nearest school?

Applications for ALPHA are only invited once an offer of placement has been made and accepted.

How are students selected for ALPHA?

Students must apply for and be offered an enrolment at East Doncaster Secondary College for Year 7 2026. Once the enrolment offers have been confirmed and *students have been offered and have accepted a place at East Doncaster Secondary College*, parents will receive an invitation for their child to apply for ALPHA and details of the application process.

Applications are open to Year 6 Students transitioning to Year 7 only. Students will then be enrolled in ALPHA for Year 7, 8 & 9.

Do Year 7's require a laptop?

EDSC has a 1 to 1 Digital Learning Program for all students. Our Year 7 students will be requested to purchase a laptop. The purchase of these devices is crucial to the learning program as students will access eBooks rather than an extensive number of expensive textbooks. Students also require access to Compass for all classes.

Details of the 1 to 1 Digital Learning Program for all students and important information regarding suitable devices are detailed in the policy handbook which can be found on our website.

What Languages are offered?

The College offers Chinese (Mandarin) and Italian. As with all schools, the study of a Language is compulsory for Year 7-9. A student can begin Chinese or Italian at Year 7, even if they have not studied it at Primary School.

Do you offer any educational support programs?

We have literacy programs for identified students as well as QuickSmart and GRIN to support identified students with their numeracy skills. Via the DE's Tutor Learning Initiative and MYLNS (Middle Years Literacy and Numeracy Support) programs, we also provide targeted support for identified students.

The College Wellbeing Team is equipped to offer multiple elements of support to students or families who are in need. These range from in school counselling to engaging external agencies to provide necessary support.

Uniform

EDSC has a compulsory uniform. Our uniform provider is PSW. Our uniform policy is on our website. The official EDSC school bag also forms a part of the compulsory uniform.

How much are the school fees (Parent Payments)?

Parent Payments for all year levels and our policy for 2025 are available to view on the College website. This year, the request for Curriculum Contributions was \$220 which included our Wellbeing Program, all school Sports Carnivals, ID card and digital and online subscriptions.

We are supported very generously by our families with other contributions for interschool sports memberships, our Health Centre and additional staff and services. Donations can also be made to our Building and Library funds as we aim to renew our Maths and Art classrooms and purchase books and equipment that sustain our library as a valuable resource to students. Experience for students are provided on a user-pays basis and



Extra-Curricular items and activities that broaden the schooling include our Instrumental Music program, Year Level camps, excursions and interschool sports activities. Please refer to <https://www.eastdonsc.vic.edu.au/parent-information/parent-payments> for further information.

What if I have an older child at the College but no longer live in the zone?

Students with a sibling at the same permanent address, who will be attending the school at the same time in 2026, will be given high-level preference, after students who live within the school zone. This is subject to school capacity and enrolment restrictions. This is in line with The Department of Education Priority Order of Placement.

How long do I have to be living in the school zone before I am eligible to apply?

You need to be living in our school zone at the time you submit your application to your primary school. Placement offers are conditional on the parent/carer fulfilling permanent residence requirements. Rental agreements must be concurrent to the year of enrolment.

It is an expectation that the family will remain permanent residents within the school neighbourhood zone for the duration of their child's/children's education at East Doncaster Secondary College.

For more information or if you have any other questions please contact us via email at: enrolment@eastdonsc.vic.edu.au

What our students say about starting Year 7

Kiana, 9H

As you step through the school gates, you may feel uncertain, wondering how you'll fit in, or if you'll be able to handle the challenges ahead. But here's the truth, you are capable of so much more than you think. This year is about discovering your own strength, pushing through discomfort, and rising above doubts that can sometimes creep in.

On this first day, you have the power to choose how you approach everything. Some see it as a step into a new year, but it's truly a step into your future, your goals and your aspirations.

As a Year 7 student, every person you meet is also starting something new. Some may be just as nervous as you, and your smile, your words, your small acts of kindness could be the unexpected things that make you a great companion.

This is what high school is. A safe place, a place where you are encouraged and are not afraid to talk.

Darell, 12I

"Welcome to Year 7!", I was pumped. To this day (Year 12) I'm still able to recall the excitement and thrill I felt during my first day in EDSC as a Year 7 student. With the first step in, the pace, energy, and warm nature of both the students and teachers alike immediately made me feel comfortable and in my element. There was just so much to explore, new friends to make and so much to learn. The campus itself was mind-blowing, featuring facilities like outdoor tennis courts, basketball courts, a stadium, soccer field, and even a track - but the best part, I couldn't wait to get on the down-ball courts! Yet despite its vastness, there was a welcoming warmth from the senior students upon our arrival, stopping to say hi and even helping us to find our way around the college. Even amongst the hustle and bustle, the teachers and students made us feel valued and comfortable. In the classroom the teachers played a major role in making our transition as smooth as possible, and it was honestly the best, it simply felt like a massive upgrade from Year 6. They created an atmosphere where every question was welcomed, making the learning curve feel more like an exciting adventure than a challenge. Making friends turned out to be a breeze, like we were all part of one big, friendly family, that's because, we are! It's amazing how a place with so many people can still feel so close-knit. EDSC truly provided the perfect blend of comfort, excitement, and endless possibilities.

KEY TRANSITION DATES FOR 2026 ENROLMENT

9 May 2025	Final day to submit applications for Year 7 Placement 2026
1 July 2025	Outcome communicated via your Primary School
September 2025	Students who have been offered and accepted a place at EDSC for 2026 will be invited to sit the Edutest in September for ALPHA.
9 December 2025	EDSC Orientation Day for Year 7 2026



TRANSITION INFORMATION

Leaving primary school can be exciting but daunting. From day one your child will experience many changes, each of which will bring questions and new things to do:

- more subjects and teachers
- different kinds of homework
- more challenging school work
- the responsibility of getting to classes in different rooms on time
- the need to manage themselves, their learning and their equipment
- using lockers and carrying books between classes
- adapting to different teaching styles

We work closely with primary schools throughout the transition process and have strong relationships with all our local schools. Our focus is with Grade 5 and 6 students and their teachers and we have many opportunities for information sharing and school visits throughout these important years of schooling.

ENROLMENT

Your primary school is responsible for the enrolment process. They will organise the enrolment process and communicate with you regarding the school your student has been enrolled in for Year 7. Primary schools manage late applications and change of preference requests until the end of the school year; coordinating with secondary schools as requested.

SCHOOL VISITS

As a way of introducing Grades 5 and 6 students to the idea of secondary school, we invite current Year 7 students back to their old primary schools to share their experiences so far. We find it is great for primary students to hear first hand from students who were not long ago in their position and can give an authentic perspective on what secondary school is like and as you can imagine there are always so many questions!

Once enrolments have been confirmed, representatives from East Doncaster Secondary College will visit and spend time with the Grade 6 students who are enrolled and attending the next year. We also take this opportunity to meet their teachers and chat about each student.

By the end of the students' Grade 6 year we have detailed profiles on each student with information about their learning and their social/emotional needs. This enables us to put together class groupings that will allow each student to learn at their best.

Year 7 teachers have access to this information before

students enter their Year 7 classrooms on day 1, and are therefore able to provide engaging and differentiated learning for the class right from the start.

INTRODUCTION TO SECONDARY SCHOOLING

We invite all Grade 5 students from our local schools to attend a morning of learning and school familiarisation at EDSC. Students have two classes of learning where we closely replicate a Year 7 classroom experience.

ORIENTATION DAY

Orientation Day is a state-wide event for all Grade 6 Government school students. This is where all Grade 6 students spend the day attending the school they have enrolled in for Year 7. At EDSC the students spend time with students who will actually be in their home group in Year 7 as well as some of the teachers who will teach them. At this stage they are buddied up with Student Leaders and Current Year 7 students who spend the day with them, helping them around the school and answering their questions.

We also invite those students who may be the only one coming from their primary school to an additional event called 'Pre-Orientation Day'. This allows them to get to know a few people before the actual Orientation Day. In order to learn best, we know that students need to be comfortable in their environment. They need to have confidence that their teachers know them and how they learn. With this in mind building positive relationships between students and teachers begins formally when your child is in Grade 5 and continues until the end of Grade 6.



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