

## Education Services

Our education programs focus on young people who have disengaged, or are at risk of disengaging from mainstream education. Our schools, based in Geelong and Maidstone, target students with identified social or mental health issues, and offer an alternative approach to education that is culturally safe and where emotional and physical wellbeing is as important as academic success.

By adopting a more personalised, flexible approach to learning, we aim to help young people transition back to mainstream, vocational or further education.

MacKillop Family Services operate two alternative model schools in Victoria in Maidstone and Geelong. We provide both on-site and outreach services that deliver a range of educational opportunities for children and young people to support their learning and development. Our outreach programs reach children and young people who are unable to attend school, and are delivered as far west as Warrnambool.

### Our education services are aimed at young people who:

- are disengaged or at risk of disengaging from mainstream education
- have been identified as having special needs
- have been identified as having challenging behaviour
- have a social/emotional disability
- are involved with child protection and/or mental health services.

These services are underpinned by MacKillop's RELATE Model, a holistic, school-wide change model informed by the Sanctuary Model, a trauma-informed framework for organisations to build safe communities that help people heal from trauma.

Through the implementation of RELATE in classrooms and school cultures, improvement is seen in social and emotional wellness, personal accountability, behaviour and emotion management, as well as academic success.

“ Children are only able to learn within a context of safety and security...Educators then, must face what becomes an intolerable burden - how to educate children who are disturbed, distracted, hyper-aroused and whose behaviour often interferes with their own learning and the learning of others. ”

Sandra Bloom, co-founder of the Sanctuary Model.

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