Getting Ready for Secondary School

Information for Junior Secondary parents and school communities
The focus of the Junior Secondary years

Junior Secondary provides the link between upper primary and senior secondary, with a focus on:

- Social and emotional wellbeing
- Literacy and numeracy
- Building independence as a learner
- Trying new subjects and experiences
- Developing successful study strategies
Junior Secondary students and the stages of adolescence

Early stage adolescence
- Physical changes
- Anxiety about body
- Same sex friends
- Breaking childhood ties
- Developing adult thinking processes

Middle stage adolescence
- Peer focused
- Identify with music & icons
- Risk-taking behaviours
- Seeking individualisation

Late stage adolescence
- Facing up to reality
- Staying at home longer

Episode 2 - A crash course in the developmental psychology of young people
### Principal 1: Distinct identity

Junior Secondary students will have their own group identity.

### At Redcliffe State High School:

- Home room for Year 7 core subjects
- Year 7 students have two core teachers; one for English/Social Science and one for Maths/Science
- Purpose built Year 7 building with designated area for Year 7 only
- Introduction of Junior/Senior formal uniform
- Junior Secondary events – Investiture etc.
- Junior Secondary Leadership Team – Deputy Principal, Head of Department, Year Level Co-ordinators, specialist teachers
### Principle 2: Quality teaching
Teachers will have the skills to support young teens through the early high school years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At Redcliffe State High School:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Full complement of subjects in Year 7 &amp; 8 with students making first elective choices in Year 9</td>
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<td>- Specialist Year 7 teachers from feeder primaries and identified RSHS staff</td>
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<td>- Extensive Professional Development for all Junior Secondary staff</td>
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<td>- Year 7 Professional Learning Community with ILC input and support</td>
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<td>- Structural and individual differentiation to cater for all students</td>
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**Junior Secondary principles**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principle 3: Student wellbeing</th>
<th>At Redcliffe State High School:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Schools will support the social and emotional needs of Year 7-9 students.</td>
<td>• Established Student Welfare processes</td>
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<td>• Pastoral Care teacher/English/SS teacher</td>
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<td>• Targeted whole year pastoral care activities during each year level</td>
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<td>• Strong and embedded behaviour support processes</td>
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<td>• Student Welfare team monitors Year 7,8,9 students for academics, behaviour, peer relationships</td>
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<td>• Year Level Co-ordinators</td>
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<td>• Transition processes are firmly established</td>
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<td>• Reviewing transition with feeder schools</td>
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<td>• Extracurricular programs</td>
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**Junior Secondary principles**

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<th>Principle 4: Parent and community involvement</th>
<th>At Redcliffe State High School:</th>
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<td>Parents will stay connected with their students’ learning when they enter high school.</td>
<td>Many opportunities to be connected to school life – Reddi Showcase, Year 7,8,9 Parent Nights etc.</td>
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<td>Junior Secondary Forum – please leave details</td>
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<td>Parent/Teacher interview</td>
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<td>Ongoing email/phone contact</td>
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<td>Parenting Adolescents sessions</td>
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<td>Surveys</td>
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<td>Website, QSchools, SMS, newsletter</td>
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<td>Community newsletter</td>
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<td>Jetty Markets</td>
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<td>Primary Visits</td>
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<td>P&amp;C</td>
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**Principle 5: Leadership**

Schools have leadership roles for students and staff focused on Years 7–9.

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<th>At Redcliffe State High School:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Junior Secondary leadership team</td>
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<td>• Junior Secondary Planning Team</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Year Level Co-ordinators</td>
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<tr>
<td>• SABER Leadership Development Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Junior Secondary Leadership Positions including Vice-Captain of school</td>
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<td>• Junior Secondary leadership development days – yLead</td>
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<td>• School Representative Council</td>
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<td>• P&amp;C</td>
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**Junior Secondary principles**

**Principle 6: Local decision-making**
Community needs will influence how Junior Secondary looks.

**At Redcliffe State High School:**
- Peninsula Education Precinct
- Junior Secondary Cluster meetings
- Sharing curriculum with HOCs
- Transition process review
- Parent and Community feedback
Why is parent involvement so important?

Parent participation can lead to:
- improved grades, increased enrolment in higher level programs, higher graduation rates, and a greater likelihood of participation in postsecondary education
- more regular school attendance, better social skills, improved behaviour, and a greater sense of personal interest in learning.

Dr Lance Emerson, Josh Fear, Dr Stacey Fox, Emma Sanders, *Parental engagement in learning and schooling: Lessons from research*, Family-School & Community Partnerships Bureau (2012)
So what might parent involvement look like in Junior Secondary?

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<th>Communication</th>
<th>Engagement</th>
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<td>- Set high expectations</td>
<td>- Visit the school for events and activities</td>
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<td>- Talk about learning</td>
<td>- Assist with homework</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Talk about school</td>
<td>- Attend parent–teacher meetings</td>
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<td>- Use online communication</td>
<td>- Discuss learning goals/results</td>
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<td>- Know who to contact and how</td>
<td>- Join the P&amp;C of the school</td>
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<th>Learning</th>
<th>Parenting</th>
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<td>- Attend celebrations and showcases of student work</td>
<td>- Encourage your child’s involvement in events and activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Participate in workshops about student learning</td>
<td>- Talk about the future, e.g. subject choices, occupations</td>
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<td>- Create an environment at home to support learning and study</td>
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<td>- Encourage participation in homework clubs etc.</td>
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For more information about Junior Secondary

http://flyingstart.qld.gov.au/Pages/home.aspx#2