

# Welcome

## About *The Good Schools Guide*

First published in 1999, *The Good Schools Guide 2010* is the 11th edition of the Guide to be released in Victoria. It is the ultimate handbook to secondary schools, boarding schools and scholarships on offer throughout the state. Hobsons produces a range of print and online publications that assist with other important education and career decisions. For more information, see page vii.

### ***Who is this Guide for?***

This Guide is for anyone interested in secondary schools in Victoria, from the professionals who run the schools, to the parents, students, school counsellors and the interested public who use or support them. For parents and prospective students, the Guide is a means of identifying what different schools are likely to offer. For teachers and schools, it is a means of letting parents know who they are and what they are trying to achieve, in order to attract students suited to their values.

### ***What is this Guide for?***

Victoria is served by schools in the government, Catholic and independent sectors. Every school and every school system strives to promote academic excellence within a caring environment. But in many other respects, schools do differ considerably, not just between one sector and another but also within each sector. The comprehensive government system caters for everyone across all areas of the state, from remote country towns to the most competitive and

diverse urban enclaves. The Catholic school system provides a comfortable economic alternative for Catholic students. Independent schools (including independent Catholic schools) provide a range of other choices, generally at higher costs to parents than either of the other systems. All three sectors are supported to some extent by public money.

We hope that the information in this Guide will increase your understanding of the Victorian education system, and help to narrow down the list of schooling options you and your child want to consider.

### ***What is this Guide not for?***

This is not a guide to the 'best' schools in Victoria. Schools differ so much that it would be like comparing apples with oranges. For these reasons we document and compare aspects of schools, not schools as a whole. A good school for your child might be a bad one for someone else's. Although parents have much in common in their expectations of schools, they also have some differences of opinion — religious versus secular schooling, single-sex versus coeducational (co-ed) schools, selective schools and those that take everyone in the local area. Also, different approaches work for different children, even those from the same family. Young people vary in their responsiveness to different learning environments; in their academic, sporting and artistic abilities; their interests; and in their ideas about what they will do and who they will be in the future. The Guide is not intended to be your sole resource in deciding the best school or pathway for your child. Rather it is designed as a tool to promote further discussion with your family, teachers, principals and other parents.

