St Virgil’s College is a Grade 3 to Year 10 school for boys, founded in 1911 and conducted by Edmund Rice Education Australia. The aim of the College is to support parents in educating their sons within the Catholic tradition and the spirit of Edmund Rice.

The St Virgil’s Junior School (Grade 3 to 6) is located in Patrick Street, Hobart, adjacent to St Mary’s Cathedral with a student population of 160. The secondary campus (Grade 7 to 10) has around 590 students and is situated on an expansive property at Austins Ferry.

The Counsellor will model Gospel values in interactions with members of the College community. The Counsellor will be committed to providing evidence-based best practice to support students to lead fulfilling, purposeful and productive lives and will display high levels of professional knowledge, expertise and ethical commitment.

It is expected that the Counsellor will have empathy with and an understanding of issues that affect young people and their families. The position will be required to work at the College’s Junior and Senior campus.

**Job Title:** College Counsellor (Part-Time – approximately 19 hours per week)

**Reports To:** College Psychologist
Duties and Responsibilities

The College Counsellor will:

- Support the Catholic tradition and ethos of the College.
- Work collaboratively with the Principal, the Heads of Senior and Junior Campuses and staff members.
- Support students and celebrate their diversity, catering for their individual needs.
- Develop and support a College culture that empowers young people to think critically and discern wisely.
- Be an active, collaborative, authentic, professional and relational member of the College community.
- Refer students and families to external services upon consultation with the College Psychologist.
- Provide input into reports concerning students with special needs.
- Plan interventions to mediate or prevent learning and behaviour problems at individual, group and class levels.
- Counsel students and parents.
- Manage small crisis situations (i.e. support to students to adjust to some of the crises they experience in their lives).
- Support staff to manage difficult student behaviours in the classroom.
- Work in a collaborative case management model with the Head of Learning Enrichment to support students with social and learning challenges.
- Consult with the Principal, Deputy Principal, Heads of Campus, staff, professionals from other agencies, and private practitioners.
- Create an atmosphere in which parents feel comfortable to approach the Counsellor on matters relating to their children.
- Participate in parent education programmes as required by the Principal.
- Respond to parental enquiries regarding student behaviour.
- In consultation with the Principal, fulfil duties as a mandatory reporter.
- Maintain confidential professional records and archive systems in accordance with professional ethics and Australian Privacy Principles.
o Provide education to teachers regarding the psychological wellbeing of students.
o Work with school staff to assist in promoting the development, learning and wellbeing of students.
o Engage in regular professional supervision or peer consultation in accordance with professional ethical standards.
o Provide professional feedback and support to colleagues through collaborative programming practices, public support for colleagues and maintaining the dignity of all community members.
o Maintain good order and discipline among the students and safeguard their health and wellbeing in authorised College activities.
o Adhere to the College’s Occupational Health and Safety policies and procedures.

**Qualifications and Experience**

It is required that the College Counsellor have:

- An understanding of and sincere commitment to the philosophy of Catholic Education and inclusive practices.
- Qualification(s) as a psychologist, registered with the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Authority (APHRA) or other appropriate qualification(s) in Counselling (eg Masters of Counselling).
- Eligibility for membership with an appropriate professional association.
- Current driver’s licence.
- Current Working with Vulnerable People Card.
- Experience in educational settings an advantage.

**Support Staff**

The College Counsellor will be supported by a range of personnel, including:
Time Involvement/Remuneration
The position is a part time (approximately 19 hours per week) limited tenure position for the 2016 school year. Salary and conditions will be negotiated with the Principal and will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Tenure
The position is a part time (approximately 19 hours per week) limited tenure position for the 2016 school year. A performance appraisal process relating to the key selection criteria for the position will be undertaken with the College Psychologist and Deputy Principal on an annual basis.

Key Selection Criteria
The Key Selection Criteria that will be used to select the College Counsellor are:

1. Demonstrated understanding and commitment to the educational philosophy of St Virgil's College.

2. Knowledge and specific skills in individual and group counselling to support a well-developed and current knowledge of issues that affect young boys and their families.

3. Knowledge and skills in consultation practices.

4. Knowledge of professional ethical guidelines for working with minors and mature minors.

5. Knowledge of professional record keeping practices; professional code of ethics and Australian Privacy Principles.
6. An understanding and awareness of equity issues in the education and management of students, particularly the Disability Standards for Education (2005).

7. The ability to work collaboratively with colleagues and as part of a team is essential for this role.

8. Highly developed personal skills in self-direction and initiative, communication, problem solving and negotiation.

**Application Procedure**

Applications addressing the key selection criteria for the position of College Counsellor should be submitted to the Principal, Mr Damian Messer. Applications close on Monday February 15 2016.

Enquiries regarding the role should be directed to the College Psychologist Ali Morse – amorse@stvirgils.tas.edu.au or 6249 6555.

**Applications to:**

Mr Damian Messer  
Principal  
St Virgil’s College  
195 Main Rd  
AUSTINS FERRY, 7011  
dmesser@stvirgils.tas.edu.au