

Queensland Bishops



The mission of Catholic education in Queensland

Catholic schools, together with parents and clergy, educate students to live a life faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In a Catholic school, students learn about and experience the Catholic faith, its history, teachings, rituals and culture. A Catholic education is an invitation to experience the world with a Catholic heart informed by a Biblical view of the human person. It is a privileged way of learning what it means to be a human being, looking to Jesus crucified and risen as the one in whom we see what it is to be fully human.

Inspired by the challenge to advance the mission of Jesus Christ through the ministry of education, Catholic schools are places of hope and promise for students and play a vital role in promoting their spiritual, moral, intellectual, physical, social, emotional development and negotiating a purposeful life through the maze of contemporary culture. Drawing on the inspiration of the many founding stories within Catholic schools, our distinctive story privileges the Gospel message and looks for points of encounter and dialogue with young people in their search for the fullness of life.

Catholic schools now minister in a society where belief in God and affiliation with Churches is not what it was. Catholic schools have always welcomed those of other faiths and those with no particular religious beliefs. This is increasingly so. In doing this they participate in the Church's mission to evangelise, bringing the good news of Jesus to those who have not heard it and inviting them to join in promoting the reign of God for a compassionate, peaceful and hope-filled world.

Catholic schools are called to be

1. **welcoming and inclusive communities** where human dignity is respected and celebrated, and a spirit of welcome extended to diverse student groups and highly qualified, professional staff irrespective of race, religion, ethnicity, gender or physical ability. We witness to Christ's mission through an inclusive embrace of all staff and students.
2. **places of faith and reason** where the Gospel message and scholarship act together to liberate the human spirit and stimulate life-long learning in a safe space of intellectual openness and respect. A Catholic education empowers student leadership and furthers their spiritual, intellectual and social well-being through encounter and dialogue.
3. **places of prayer, ritual and liturgy** which enable students to see and experience the world as the theatre of God's grace. Prayer, ritual and liturgical experiences enrich students' understanding and interpretation of human life from a religious perspective and instil a desire to grow more fully into who they are called to be.
4. **places of care and attention to the needs of others** where students learn that true meaning in life comes from serving others, especially the poorest and the least, and that to lead means to serve.

We the Bishops of Queensland are called to be teachers, which is why we value Catholic schools so highly. We thank all those engaged in the evangelising mission of Catholic schools for their personal and professional dedication. We welcome the students and families who enrol in our schools and invite them to join with us in the great mission of educating for a better world.

+ *Shane Mackinlay*
Most Rev Shane Mackinlay

+ *Joe Caddy*
Most Rev Joseph Caddy

+ *Timothy Harris*
Most Rev Timothy Harris

+ *Ken Howell*
Most Rev Ken Howell

+ *Michael McCarthy*
Most Rev Michael McCarthy

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