



ST BERNARD'S COLLEGE

STRATEGY BEYOND 2023

STRATEGIC PLAN
2022 – 2026



St Bernard's Acknowledgement of Country

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's spiritual and cultural connection to country, we acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation who are the traditional custodians of the land on which our College sits.

We recognize the continued care of the lands and waterway passed from generation to generation, wisdom that is shared, and life that is celebrated in harmony with the natural environment

We pay our respects to their elders past present and emerging

In a spirit of humility and reconciliation we commit ourselves again to listening to the ancient wisdom that resides in the dreaming of Australia's First Nations people, so that we may learn to live in harmony with one another, and with the earth that is our common home.





St. Bernard's College

On 20 August 1940, the feast of St Bernard of Clairvaux, 224 boys from Years 7 to 11 carried their desks from St Monica's across the park to a new school on The Strand in Moonee Ponds. Under the leadership of Brother J. K. Creagan, St Bernard's College was born. In 1963, classes commenced on the current campus in West Essendon in the Tobin Building. Soon after, the Brothers' residence was added and the site has been steadily developed to include innovative teaching spaces, the 370 seat Frank FitzGerald Auditorium, a creative Arts and Technology Centre, the O'Brien Sports Centre, a Swimming Pool and most recently the Marian Chapel and Staff Centre. As part of their journey through St Bernard's College our students experience a rich differentiated curriculum at the pivotal Year 9 stage. Soon to be situated at the recently acquired Resurrection House Campus site, our Year 9 students also attend the Santa Monica Outdoor Education Camp situated west of Airies Inlet on the Great Ocean Road and our Urban Experience centre in Melbourne's CBD. A senior studies building (Year 11 & Year 12) is soon to follow in 2023.

Students at St Bernard's are expected to be personally enthusiastic about involving themselves in the broad spectrum of educational opportunities offered by the school. This applies especially to an informed and active appreciation of their Faith as an integral and essential part of a holistic education. There is no selective academic entrance exam. The school motto *Discere et Agere* — To Learn and To Do - underpins a strong drive for all students to achieve their personal best in whatever pathway is most suited to their interests and capabilities. Most students choose a VCE pathway to university, but a significant number also enroll in VET, vocational major and the SBC Baccalaureate courses in Years 11 and 12.

As we progress through the next Chapter of our proud history as a College, inspired by the Charism of the Blessed Edmund Rice, we present the Strategic Plan 2022-2026. Informed by our history and those who came before us and with a very clear vision of what we will need to do for our students, we commit ourselves to this plan so that each student may take their place as men for others in their lives beyond SBC.



Today, our 200 staff offer a wide range of formal classes, and a comprehensive informal co-curricular program, to over 1600 young men from Year 7 through to Year 12.



Our Philosophy and Principles

College Students (PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE)

Focus on being the best version of themselves in achieving their life's potential

FOUNDED ON THE EDMUND RICE TRADITION

The Edmund Rice ethos and legacy will continue to be a foundation on which the strategy is built and implemented with a particular emphasis on the Touchstones of a Catholic Education.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTERED

The development and implementation of the strategy will be informed by valued contribution from students, College staff, the School Advisory Council and the whole school community.

ALIGNED WITH THE VISION AND VALUES

The strategy is aligned with the College vision and values, and together, they provide a full picture of the lifelong value of being a St Bernard's College student.

A UNIQUE BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

The strategy presents a future destination, leverages the College strengths and provides a pragmatic blueprint for a future ready St Bernard's College.



Our Vision and Mission

St Bernard's College contributes to a better world for all by educating to form the whole person, empowering each student to fulfil his life's potential.

St Bernard's College is a Catholic School for boys in the Edmund Rice tradition, **pursuing excellence by learning and doing.**



Our Values

As a Catholic school community, St Bernard's College is committed to Gospel values that are central to all relationships within the College.

These values link the College, the home and the broader community of the Church and are expressed through the Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition.



LIBERATING EDUCATION

We open hearts and minds, through quality teaching and learning experiences, so that through critical reflection and engagement each person is hope-filled and free to build a better world for all.



GOSPEL SPIRITUALITY

We invite all people into the story of Jesus and strive to make his message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community.



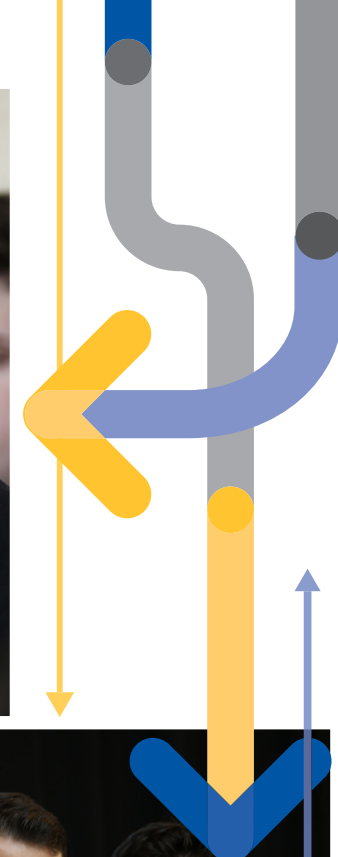
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Our community is accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and committed to the common good.



JUSTICE AND SOLIDARITY

We are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and Earth itself.





Staff Perspective

WHY DO WE DO THIS

For the man he'll become

HOW DO WE DO THIS

We are experts in the contemporary education of young men

WHAT WE DO



BELONG

In Years 7 & 8 we promote a culture to help our young men have a sense of belonging at the College



BELIEVE

In Years 9 & 10 we challenge our young men to believe in the man they will become, to aspire to achieve



BECOME

In Years 11 & 12 we help our young men become the best version of themselves to be prepared to take on the world

*Be the best version of yourself
Respectful • Responsible • Resilient*

The approach for prioritising the key challenges

We used a futures-radar model to identify and reflect on current trends using a wide range of literature, experiences and our own expertise. The thinking was focused on 7 key domains that featured prominently throughout the various reports. These are listed below:

1. Health & Wellbeing
2. Child Safe Guarding
3. Socio-cultural Change
4. COVID Impacts
5. Economics & Climate Change
6. The future of work and education
7. Scientific & Technological Developments

Major challenges were then prioritized into those of highest relevance and impact for the future of St Bernard's College.

Key Challenges as Strategic Focus Areas



How might we provide for and shape active, discerning, bold & **ethical lifelong learners**?



How might we create **proactive, global citizens** who are active in social conscience and custodians of the environment?



How might we **foster social and emotional wellbeing** to ensure a caring workplace and place of learning?



How might we develop **responsible community members** with positive, respectful relationships?



How might we improve operational excellence to ensure **gold star stewardship** and administration of the College?





Operational Business Plan

Informed by strategic plan 2022-2026



Our priorities through 2022-2026

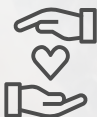
As a College with an aspirational vision, a rich history, grounded in Gospel values and inspired by the Charism of Edmund Rice



OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR FAITH AS CENTRAL TO WHO WE ARE



OUR COMMITMENT AS LEADERS IN BOY'S EDUCATION



OUR COMMITMENT TO CARE AND WELLBEING



OUR COMMITMENT TO CONNECT AND NURTURE OUR COMMUNITY



OUR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP





OUR PRIORITIES THROUGH 2022-2026

Commitment to our Faith

Our commitment to our Faith as central to who we are will be evident as we:

- Build the capacity of students and staff in the understanding of catholic social teaching
- Engage locally and globally to build connection between classroom practice and real-world experience
- Develop frameworks and plans to guide our work in social justice, environmental learning, Mission and Identity
- Prioritize our engagement with our first nations people, their spirituality, and our reconciliation





OUR PRIORITIES THROUGH 2022-2026

Commitment as leaders in the education of young men

Our commitment as leaders in the education of young men will be evident as we:

- Enrich our feedback practices to staff and students
- Drive school improvement using data, research and setting high expectations
- Proactively engaging with student voice initiatives
- Continue to develop specialised offerings to respond to the development of our own students and their needs in a contemporary society





OUR PRIORITIES THROUGH 2022-2026

Commitment to Care and Wellbeing

Our commitment to Care and Wellbeing will be evident as we:

- Continue to enhance a safe and supportive community through explicit teaching and learning activities
- Promote and develop models of student leadership throughout the College
- Enhance wellbeing through restorative practice and appropriately resourced programs



OUR PRIORITIES THROUGH 2022-2026

Commitment to connect and nurture our community

Our commitment to connect and nurture our community will be evident as we:

- Equip our students to navigate their adolescence
- Know our community and its aspirations in order to support our young men into their future
- Challenge attitudes, language and behaviours to gender and sexuality which limit freedom and voice
- Proactively engage with all significant stakeholders to inform college policy and practise





OUR PRIORITIES THROUGH 2022-2026

Commitment to provide responsible stewardship

Our commitment to provide responsible stewardship will be evident as we:

- Invite shared leadership of our improvement agenda through effective communication, collaboration and consultation
- Ensuring a high standard of practice in governance, compliance, risk and the safeguarding of our students
- Invest in human capital through recruitment, targeted professional learning, formation and support.
- Manage our College resources in a sustainable and responsible manner

