



Philosophy Statement

St Bernard's College is committed to a culture of "zero tolerance" for child abuse. We promote a culture that prioritises the safety and wellbeing of all young people and continue to respond positively and proactively to Ministerial Order 1359 in relation to related policies, procedures, strategies, risk mitigation and our responsiveness to emerging issues. St Bernard's College is committed to the establishment of a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are respected and valued.

St Bernard's College has built a strong community and a reputation for its commitment to ongoing improvement and excellence. The College will continue to be challenged by a range of external drivers in the changing global environment.

St Bernard's boys will experience a changed world resulting from technological advances and extreme acceleration in the pace of change associated with communications. Many of the boys beginning at St Bernard's College today will work in jobs that don't yet exist. St Bernard's will need to be agile to meet these challenges, positioning graduates to contribute meaningfully to the common good by giving them a well-rounded education in the moral and spiritual implications of changing modes of communication.

Another major shift in the global sphere is the increasing economic dominance of countries with cultures very different from Australia: intercultural understanding, adaptability, and creativity will become increasingly important.

St Bernard's College is well placed to cope with these challenges, capitalizing on the strength of the College community.

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



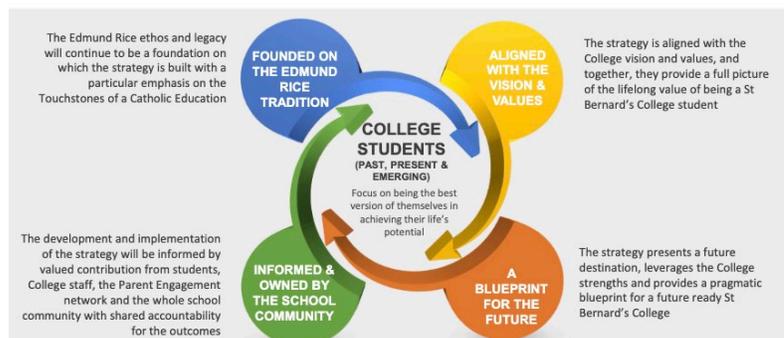
We are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalized and Earth itself.

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.

Strategic planning philosophy and principles



Our Philosophy will be enlivened through the following foci.

- Focus Area 1 – To be an education provider of choice that shapes agile, ethical and resilient learners.
- Focus Area 2 – To work for holistic social justice with impact. We aim to create well rounded, global citizens who are active in social conscience and custodians of the environment.
- Focus Area 3 – That we grow and nurture a safe and resilient school culture that fosters emotional and social wellbeing that ensures a safe workplace and learning environments for all.
- Focus Area 4 – That we nurture a lifelong and inclusive connection to a responsible community that models positive and respectful relationships and connections.

Our four Focus Areas will be enabled by operational excellence, aimed at maximizing operational efficiency and effectiveness for financial stability.

ENACTING OUR COLLEGE PHILOSOPHY

St Bernard's College is committed to Gospel values that are central to all relationships within the College. The College's philosophy is expressed through the Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition. This framework serves to guide and support our philosophy into action that can be evidenced, reviewed and used as signposts for how we enliven our philosophy day to day.

This is expressed in the *St Bernard's College Strategic Plan – Strategy beyond 2021* document which is displayed or published in:

- The College Website > About Us > *St Bernard's College Strategic Directions*
- The College Prospectus
- Reception
- Various Values Artwork throughout the College (EG: Eddie and Bernie Sculpture, Artwork leading into Auditorium)
- St Bernard's College Annual Report to the community.

We believe we enact this philosophy by:

1. Our College motto is *Discere et Agere*; pursuing excellence by learning and doing. Programs reflect this – *AGERE* at Year 10 and 11, the Santa Monica Experience at Year 9, The Year 9 urban Engagement Program, VET offerings, VCAL Applied Learning program and the inaugural Baccalaureate Program at Year 12.
2. Educating to form the whole person, empowering each student to fulfil his life's potential. We promote and resource opportunities to understand and commit to the Four Touchstones. We have recently introduced the Year 12 RE program, have offerings of RE VCE units to Year 12, various Retreat offerings in each year level; as well as offerings that promote wellbeing and academic excellence.
3. Using learning data to inform and respond to student needs and the development educational approaches
4. Recruiting, retaining and developing highly professional, committed and enthusiastic staff
5. Providing students with the opportunity to engage in a wide range of co-curricular activities, through the ACC and other avenues
6. Promoting and demonstrating a commitment to social justice and providing students with many and varied ways of developing their social consciousness.