

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE BALLARAT

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

2019-2021





St Patrick's College is a Catholic day and boarding school for boys in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

Edmund Rice founded the Christian Brothers, a religious order of men, in Waterford Ireland in 1802 to educate boys as a response to a social inequity of the times. The College celebrates this heritage, which originated in its foundation by the Christian Brothers in 1893. The College is now governed by Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA).

As an EREA school within the Ballarat region, St Patrick's College serves our families and the broader community by reaching out to others and developing strong **relationships**. In doing so, we connect with others to build an experience of belonging as we contribute to the unfolding of a great story where our words and actions are based in the Gospel values where Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of a full Christian life.

Our community in its diversity, provides a broad range of quality opportunities for all and actively encourages each person to strive for personal **excellence**. Our hope for the future is in the young men we serve, whose experiences and connection to the College are formed by, and honour, the rich **traditions** which have helped to shape the identity and culture of St Patrick's College.



**EDMUND RICE EDUCATION
AUSTRALIA**

Vision Statement

Raising Fine Boys to the Status of Great Men



Mission

As an EREA College, our Touchstones provide a direction for our work in educating young people in the Charism of Edmund Rice. They challenge us to continue to make the Gospel a living reality in our communities. Our Touchstones call us to provide a liberating education, based on a Gospel spirituality, within an inclusive community committed to justice and solidarity.

Touchstones and Foundational Statements

Liberating Education

We hold our boys' learning and their growth at the heart of all that we do.

We free our boys to search for, to unearth and to grasp their potential.

We encourage our boys to embrace wonder and discernment, hard work and perseverance.

We offer our boys a contemporary, creative and committed education grounded in **excellence**.

We recognise our boys learn through their involvement in all moments of school life and celebrate their success in many ways.

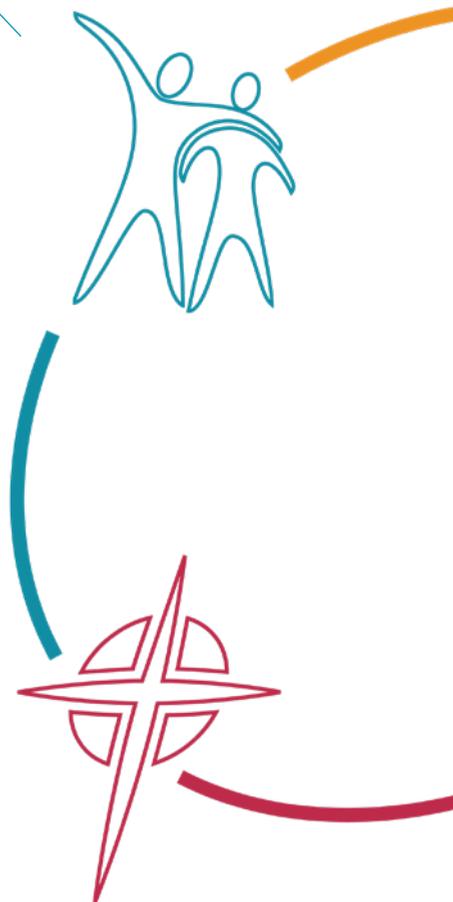
Gospel Spirituality

With our boys we walk the path of hope, goodness and truth, made bright by the guiding light of the Gospel.

With our boys we begin the greatest journey of all - a life for others in Christ.

With our community we kindle the fire of Jesus' call: Love one another as I have loved you.

With our community we recognise that each person is loved by God completely.





Inclusive Community

We know each boy.

We celebrate each boy's presence, and we nurture and are thankful for their unique qualities.

We invite all to share in the nourishment of **joyous**, hope-filled and life-long friendships.

We want all boys to help shape our living College community, to strengthen and be enriched by our Catholic **faith** and heritage and our great College **traditions**.

Justice and Solidarity

Our boys grow through the strength they gain from their **relationships** with one another.

Our boys speak up for and stand with the poor, the marginalised, the voiceless and the vulnerable: *To live justly, to love tenderly and to walk humbly with our God.*

Our community yearns for true reconciliation with our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander sisters and brothers, fathers and mothers.

Our community cares about the environment and our planet.



Learning & Teaching

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Goals

Key Strategies

Engage and challenge staff, students and parents to assume collaborative responsibility for learning through a whole school learning and teaching vision that promotes **excellence**.

Research, develop and implement a range of processes and procedures to further student accountability for their learning.

Identify and evaluate students' learning strengths and challenges to inform teaching and to provide rigorous and meaningful learning.

Through the routine use of student diagnostic testing data, evaluate and identify students' learning strengths and challenges to inform teaching and to provide rigorous and meaningful learning.

Recognising the diverse learning needs and interests of our students, continue to review and develop classroom programs, pathways and certificate offerings.

Explore a range of timetable and daily organisation models with a view to maximising learning and teaching time.

Facilitate a program of staff professional development in the contemporary understanding of research-based learning and teaching pedagogy.

Advance teachers' understanding of best practice in the classroom to further students' learning outcomes.



Faith, Life & Culture

Goals

Key Strategies

To enrich the commitment of staff to our Catholic community through engagement with the heritage of St Patrick's College.

To deepen staff understanding of personal prayer, Mass and liturgy as key paths to personal and community growth.

To engage the Touchstones with the many starting points for **faith** in the search for ultimate value and final meaning.

To engage the hopes and desires of staff to enrich the gift of our Catholic heritage.

To enrich the commitment of families to our Catholic community through engagement with the heritage of St Patrick's College.

To offer families a vision of the human person made in the image of God.

To foster meaningful **relationships** that unite families in **faith**, hope and **joy**, especially as expressed in the Touchstones.

To engage the hopes and desires of families with our Catholic heritage to support the family as the first school.

To enrich the commitment of students to our Catholic community through engagement with the heritage of St Patrick's College.

To deepen student understanding of personal growth and responsibility through Mass, liturgies and prayer.

To improve student understanding of the reasons for and nature of Edmund Rice Day as a key moment in the life of our community.

To enhance a student culture characterized by attentiveness, intelligence, **faith** and personal responsibility, especially as expressed in the Touchstones.



Wellbeing

Goals

Key Strategies

Foster an environment where all are accepted and feel safe, included, valued and respected.

Using the collaborative model with counselling, learning enhancement, pastoral care and parents, ensure relevant policies and strategies are in place to create a zero tolerance to all forms of abuse including bullying.

Ensure and commit to staff wellbeing and build staff professional practice to strengthen school community wellbeing and safety through ongoing professional development.

Promote positive **relationships** between and amongst students, staff, and parents.

Teach consistent behaviour expectations and consequences based on agreed policies and structures and use Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS) with staff to manage and circumvent challenging behaviour.

Develop an effective pastoral care structure that values, supports and is relevant to the developmental needs and wellbeing of all students.

Develop engaged, resilient and aspirational learners who demonstrate perseverance, purpose and integrity.

Full implementation of whole school pastoral care program developed in 2017 and extend the implementation of the Youth Mental Health First Aid program.

Foster staff confidence and expertise in dealing with students with special needs particularly those lacking resilience.

Nurture collaborative and authentic **relationships** within St Patrick's College and with our wider community.

Strengthen connection and collaboration with community groups through events, volunteering etc.



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