



26 August 2024

**St Aloysius Catholic College - Response to Government Inquiry
into Discrimination and Bullying in Tasmania Schools**

Preamble

St Aloysius Catholic College is a co-educational Catholic College of faith and learning in the Kingborough Municipality, south of Hobart. We are a College of three campus locations offering an education from Kindergarten to Year 12.

St Aloysius Catholic College has a total enrolment of 1,190 students consisting of;
Junior Campus - 470 students, Middle Campus - 427 students, Senior Campus - 293 students.

- The Junior Campus is home to our Kindergarten to Year 4 students and is located at 123 Roslyn Avenue, Kingston Beach.
- The Middle Campus holds our Year 5 to Year 8 students and is located at 12 Nautilus Grove, Huntingfield.
- The Senior Campus is home to our Year 9 to Year 12 students, located at 50 Huntingfield Avenue, Huntingfield.

In keeping with our Mission and our Motto, *Strive Believe Achieve*, we aim to develop each child's potential: spiritually, intellectually, culturally, physically and emotionally. We believe that the education of a child is a shared responsibility between parents and guardians, teachers and the child.

It is our aim for all who belong to our St Aloysius Catholic College community to work together in a climate of respect, support and understanding, to provide an environment of security and growth in which all students may fully develop their potential. Each student will be provided with opportunities to discover their God-given talents and encouraged to use them for the good of themselves and others.

This submission addresses the particular areas of (b) and (d) of the terms of reference:

- (b) inquire into and report upon the measures necessary to prevent and remedy discrimination and bullying in Tasmanian schools in regard to students and staff
- (d) examine and recommend what efforts are being made and should be made towards meeting those obligations by Tasmanian schools in regard to students and staff

Our school is a safe place for students because

At St Aloysius Catholic College we offer alternative recess and lunchtime activities and spaces such as our Junior Campus 'Quiet room', Middle campus 'Diversity Club' and library and Senior Students' Common Room at our Senior Campus. Pastoral leaders are visible, active and approachable and we have four student counsellors across the College.

Learning Diversity:

Exclusion and integration is the exception, with inclusion normalised. Across Kindergarten to Year 12 we currently have 10 students recognised at the extensive level in NCCD for categories including Social & Participation, Cognitive and Physical needs. Supporting staff presence in the classroom and student participation in the classroom is expected - not the exception.

We welcome families who seek the education we provide

St Aloysius Catholic College, as a Catholic school we are inclusive and respectful of all and welcome everyone seeking a faith based holistic values education, regardless of their religious beliefs.

We have zero tolerance for bullying. We use the following program/s to encourage respect, courtesy and consideration for others

At St Aloysius Catholic Colleges we have a Pastoral Care Model, which is called *The Better Bees*. It teaches students the importance of being fair, safe, respectful and a learner. This is delivered through weekly assemblies and is also present in our behavioural management approach, with trauma-informed strategies to guide educators in supporting students with challenging behaviours in the classroom. It also identifies bullying as a major behaviour that requires follow-up from the Pastoral Care team through the form of a restorative conversation.

We welcome families from the margins,

At St Aloysius Catholic College learning diverse students and families from diverse backgrounds are welcomed.

High level and complex disabilities are catered for with annual training sessions on manual handling, and PEG feeding through Medecs Training to ensure student dignity and full participation in school life. Extra paraprofessional staffing is engaged for upskilling and off-campus experiences with close collaboration with parents and guardians (Input from 2 Local Speech pathology providers within school hours, IK Occupational Therapy visits and consultations and Physiotherapists).

Students and families that are culturally or linguistically vulnerable are welcomed and supported financially to participate when and where possible (eg - recent refugee arrival and inclusion in the Year 6 Canberra trip - Nov 2023).

Students that are gifted, talented or twice exceptional are catered for with a number of co-curricular activities including chess club, Philosothon and Gifted 1 day school programs provided by CET.

We provide fee assistance for families in genuine need by

At St Aloysius Catholic College families who hold an eligible concession card can receive a specified level of fee assistance (set across all of Catholic Education Tasmania), without the need to make an assistance application to the College.

Variations in payments, and in exceptional circumstances fee remissions, can be requested by families who are experiencing financial hardship or are struggling to pay on time, by speaking to the Business Manager or the Principal. Families are required to provide evidence of need to enter into a special payment arrangement or receive a fee remission.

We believe that student well-being comes from being accepted and welcomed and from experiencing success in learning. All of our education programs are aimed at these goals. Specifically, we utilise the following programs and structures...

At St Aloysius Catholic College when students experience success, they become more motivated and engaged in their learning. Evidence-based teaching practices, such as Explicit Direct Instruction, are used by our teaching staff to include every student, in every lesson, in every classroom. When these practices are used, we see students feeling safe in the classroom, they are confident in their abilities and everyone feels accepted. The Science of Learning provides us with a multi-tiered approach in which every student can be successful.

Our learning support team gives targeted support to students approaching grade standard in literacy, with interventions such as MultiLit programs.

Our religion classes teach everyone about God's plan for our happiness and the importance of every person and ...

At St Aloysius Catholic College our Religion classes from Kinder to Year 12 focus on **God as love** and we have a strong emphasis on kindness, compassion, and treating others the way we want to be treated using the example of Jesus as our greatest teacher and role model. Our Making Jesus Real (MJR) program enriches and supplements our Religious Education Curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 8, teaching and modelling the Gospel values and the inherent dignity and respect due to all living things and the world we live in.

We support pastoral care in our school by

At St Aloysius Catholic College the idea of being pastoral with our students at our school is a philosophy rather than a lesson. We teach our students with a pastoral lens in aspects of college life. We use several programs at St Aloysius Catholic College including our timetabled pastoral lesson once per week, we utilise several levels of support and intervention for our students including year level coordinators, a pastoral director and deputy principals, as well as support staff such as counsellors.

Our conversations with students are trauma informed and we implement a restorative approach when issues arise between students.

Student Voice

St Aloysius Catholic College students have completed the following sentences:

- I like my school because There are a heap of sports you can choose from
Tash, Year 4
- The best thing about my school is So many friendly kids and teachers
Mayla, Year 4
- The teachers at my school Are kind, respectful
Elena, Year 4
- I feel happy at St Aloysius because I have close group of friends
Jett, Year 4
- I feel safe at St Aloysius because I have my friends and my teacher
Charlie, Year 1
- In our school we are kind to each other because People can become rude
Noah, Year 2

Yours sincerely,



Mr Paul Reidy
Principal

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MIDDLE CAMPUS | 12 Nautilus Grove, Huntingfield, TAS 7055 | 03 6229 0100

SENIOR CAMPUS | 50 Huntingfield Avenue, Huntingfield, TAS 7055 | 03 6229 0100