



26th August 2024

***Response to Government Inquiry into Discrimination and Bullying in Tasmanian Schools***

*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.*

Corpus Christi Catholic School is a Kindergarten to Grade 6 primary school located in Bellerive, educating 480 students.

Corpus Christi Catholic School prides itself on being a welcoming community for all students and families. We provide a safe and nurturing environment where students can thrive socially, emotionally and academically. It is through our variety of programs within our school that we can offer the support each individual child and family requires.

Our school is a safe place for students where routines and predictability are key. Corpus Christi Catholic Schools Positive Behaviour Model is based on three virtues of Joy, Compassion and Hospitality. The Corpus Christi Catholic Schools Virtues Program is a testament to our commitment to student welfare and reflects our dedication to instilling values that will serve our students throughout their lives. This program focuses primarily on the well-being of all our students and aims to explicitly teach them how to become positive and contributing members of our school community and society. It recognises that academic success is inseparable from character development and creating a supportive and safe learning environment. This approach ensures that all students have equal opportunities to learn regardless of their background or beliefs.

The positive behaviour model flows throughout the entire school environment and supports student behaviour in the classroom, playground and during outside school events. We have a zero tolerance for bullying and use this program to reteach and support students in learning to respect each other. It is through restorative practices that we aim to build and maintain healthy relationships within the Corpus Christi catholic Schools community by constructively addressing conflicts and behavioural issues.

We welcome families who seek the education we provide. New and intending families are welcomed to our school through our Setup for Success Program. This is for birth to five years before formal schooling begins. It is a free program, coordinated by our Kindergarten teachers and is open to all families within the community. This program fosters play, discovery, creativity and exploration for the children. It helps create a sense of community and inclusion for new families to our school.

To support families within our school we provide 'Breakfast Club', which is open every day of the school year. This allows families to drop their children to school and be provided breakfast in a safe and warm environment, which is supervised by school staff. Breakfast Club also supports the marginalised families within our community. It provides all students with a sense of belonging and a positive start to the school day.

We provide fee assistance and support to families at times of genuine need. This support also flows into providing uniform and other school resources for those families.

Our enrolments are open to all students regardless of background or beliefs. Part of our enrolment process is to offer school tours where new families can witness the variety of programs offered. We regularly receive feedback from our new families commenting on how welcoming our school community is.

An important part of nurturing our student's health and well-being is through our school counselling program. This service provides short-term, child-centred counselling support to students to assist them to achieve positive social and emotional well-being outcomes. This support is offered one-to-one during school hours. Parents/guardians or teachers are able to refer a student to the school counsellor. The school counsellor also runs well-being sessions with small groups to assist students in managing their emotions, developing their social skills and supporting past and new friendships. This program also supports the school's positive behaviour program, as mentioned above.

Parents/guardians in our community are invited to become involved in a variety of school activities. Family engagement is welcomed and encouraged at our school. We welcome families to awards assemblies at the end of each term and end of the year celebrations. As a whole school we celebrate International Women's Day and International Men's Day. Family and friends of the students are invited to participate in fun activities with the child as their special guest. Grandparents/Special Person's Day is another exciting whole school event where students can be made to feel special and celebrate their school with an important person in their life. We celebrate sports carnivals and various engagement days where families and friends are invited to join our school community. Our parent community also runs a 'Friends of Corpus,' where events are organised to raise money for school resources. Friends of Corpus welcomes all parents to become involved and participate in helping organise school activities

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 throughout our school. We have a whole school approach to teaching and learning, where a scope and sequence is scaffolded to ensure all students receive the same approach to learning from Kindergarten to Grade 6. Our programs are data informed to ensure timely intervention takes place so students have every opportunity to achieve success. We have a tiered approach to teaching and learning where all students access grade level content and if further intervention is required the students move to small group learning followed by 1:1 intervention. Being a double streamed school, our teaching staff is well resourced with a three-teacher model across every year level throughout our school. Each class also has access to teacher assistants to help support all students. A three-teacher model supports differentiated learning for our students in all areas of school life.

Our religion classes teach everyone about God's plan for our happiness and the importance of every person, regardless of their background. The values that Catholicism promotes is intertwined within our school programs, encouraging our students to learn, play, and make mistakes with the support of God's love for them as individual's and in our school community.

At Corpus Christi Catholic School, we pride ourselves on celebrating student success and achievements, no matter how big or small. In closing, we have some highlights from students at Corpus Christi Catholic School.

*The best thing about Corpus Christi Catholic School is my friends.*

*The teachers at my school are kind and helpful.*

*I feel happy at Corpus Christi Catholic School because it's an amazing school and I feel safe here.*

*I feel safe at Corpus Christi Catholic School because I have good friends and teachers that I trust.*

*In our school we are kind to each other because it doesn't cost anything to be kind.*



*Lisette Noonan*  
Acting Principal  
Corpus Christi Catholic School

