



27 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.

St Brendan-Shaw College is a Year 7 - 12 secondary college in Devonport, Tasmania educating approximately 570 students.

At St Brendan-Shaw College, we value safety for students because we are explicit that each individual has the right to feel safe, valued and respected. This is underpinned by our [Positive Behaviour Support Framework](#) that centres on Learning, Participation and Respect. Our pastoral care structure centres on vertical pastoral care, where students develop connections with their Homeroom and Homeroom teacher throughout their St Brendan-Shaw College journey. The College provides a safe platform for students to report and identify unsafe behaviours by completing a form through our student platform, SEQTA. Additionally, we explicitly publish a [Safety Poster](#) in each classroom showing students who they can go to if they are concerned about their safety or the safety of others.

We welcome families who seek the education we provide by prioritising parent/guardian engagement and providing effective mechanisms for open dialogue between home and College.

Parents' / Guardians' first point of call is their child's Homeroom teacher and House Head, who truly know each child in their care.

At St Brendan-Shaw College, we explicitly teach students that bullying has no place. We use our Positive Behaviour Support to explicitly teach students what respect looks like in our College context and implement restorative practice. Additionally, we provide our students with the skills to become resilient learners through [Pastoral care lessons](#). We support pastoral care in our school through our Pastoral Care Framework and [Pastoral Care Protocol](#).

We welcome families from the margins to ensure that an education at St Brendan-Shaw College is accessible to all. We provide fee assistance, additional assistance with uniforms, and access to resources.

Student well-being comes from being accepted and welcomed and experiencing success in learning. All of our education programs aim to achieve these goals. Student learning is tracked, and appropriate intervention is provided to ensure all students can experience success in their learning. This is supported by our intervention program, spelling mastery, and accelerator reader, or as we know it, at St Brendan-Shaw College, Rage Reading in Years 7/8.

Our religion classes teach our students the importance of the dignity of the human person. Students are provided with the opportunity to unpack their own values and beliefs and develop a greater understanding of how these are formed. Our College Values, Vision, and Mission provide an opportunity for students to unpack further what it means to be Christian, and this is underpinned by a [Strategic Plan](#).

[Mission Statement](#)

Our vision is to be a vibrant learning centre as a Catholic community seeking justice, hope and truth through faith and deed, light and knowledge. And this is underpinned by our College Values:

- Justice
- Hope
- Truth
- Service
- Integrity
- Excellence

Student and parent/guardian voices are critical to us as a College, and this is evident through the many working groups and mechanisms for community engagement we have at St Brendan-Shaw College:

- College Board
- College Uniform Committee
- Student Representative Council

St Brendan-Shaw College has sought students' voices on why they feel safe, valued, and respected. We include a link to the student survey spreadsheet [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Stuart Ralph
Principal

Links referenced:

[Positive Behaviour Support](#)

[Safety Poster](#)

[Pastoral Care Lessons](#)

[Pastoral Care Protocol](#)

[Strategic Plan](#)

[Mission Statement](#)

[Student Survey Spreadsheet](#)