

Larmenier Catholic School



Response to Government Inquiry into Discrimination and Bullying in Tasmanian School.

31st July 2024

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

Larmenier Catholic School is a Kinder to Year 6 school with 226 students. Our school is a safe place for students because we have an open, friendly and welcoming environment. The school is known in the community for being inclusive and being able to cater for individual student needs. We welcome families who seek the education we provide. Larmenier is a unique learning environment. It operates a small hobby farm in which children actively participate in the care of animals and the environment. We have zero tolerance for bullying. We use the following program/s to encourage respect, courtesy and consideration for others:

UR Strong - The UR Strong program forms part of our Health curriculum and is taught by a specialist teacher each week. UR Strong teaches students about social situations and friendships as well as 'mean on purpose' behaviours. Students learn the knowledge and skills to navigate social situations as well as being respectful towards others.

Rumbles Quest - We undertake Rumble's Quest assessment each year to gather data around student social and emotional wellbeing. The data informs future teaching and learning in this space as well as informs programs and initiatives e.g. Wellbeing Support Officer.

PBS - The school wide positive behaviour system (PBS) is the foundational behaviour management system at Larmenier. PBS teaches the positive behaviours that are expected in the school and takes the approach of reteaching positive behaviours rather than focussing on punitive measures. The system also incorporates restorative practices.

Counselling - Larmenier provides access to a school counsellor three days a week. Referrals are taken from teachers and parents/guardians and the counsellor works with children to empower them to manage difficult personal and family situations.

We welcome families from the margins. Whilst we have limited Humanitarian students, we have many families who are from a low socio-economic demographic. We also have students who come to us from other schools in the local area who are facing difficulties, due to challenging behaviours, in their local state school.

We provide fee assistance for families in genuine need by sharing fee assistance options at every enrolment interview. We also remind people about this by communicating it in the school newsletter and by making 1:1 contact with families who are having difficulty with paying their fees. We run a Breakfast Club every morning where food is available for everyone as they enter the school, we go through 6 loaves a day plus a tray of fruit. We also provide clothing to students on an as needed basis, in the moment, as well as offering it 1:1 to families. This is a well known service of the school and many families donate the clothes to the school to use for this purpose.

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 - Differentiated learning opportunities are provided through having levelled groupings through our Spelling program, small focus groups in English and Maths across P - 6 and also through a range of task difficulties incorporated into explicit lessons and particularly in the Daily Reviews. Enrichment opportunities are also provided through Extended Learning modules which are available for all students. A range of interventions are used throughout the school to support students with specific learning needs or who are not meeting learning expectations. These interventions are based on the Response to Intervention (RTI) model, being a three-tiered approach to catching students who may otherwise fall through the gaps. E.g. MacLit is used in yrs 3 -6 as well as alternative Tier 3 1:1 Spelling Programs for students based on data from Spelling Mastery program, use of Support Teachers as a teaching structure across the school.

Our religion classes teach everyone about God's plan for our happiness and the importance of every person and we also run the Make Jesus Real program. We have a MJR Key teacher who works several days a term with the year 3 - 6 classes,

with a view to expand this to Prep to year 2 next year. The MJR program aims to support the R.E curriculum by making connections with the curriculum to everyday life and living.

We support pastoral care in our school by having a range of wellbeing staff and wellbeing initiatives. We have a Pastoral Care & Well Being (PCWB) Key teacher 2 days a week, PCWB Teacher Assistant 1 day a week as well as a Wellbeing Student Support Teacher Assistant two days a week. The wellbeing team works together to support students on a 1:1 basis as well as small groups and wellbeing initiatives e.g. visits with the residents at Mt Esk nursing home, Buddy Classes, facilitating Student Clubs. We also have four Wellbeing animals, pygmy goats, that students interact with (brushing, walking, talking). We have a very high ratio of TA's that work in the classrooms that support the learning needs of students as well as their social and emotional needs.

Student Voice Prep to Year 6

I like my school because <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The people here are nice ● It is so big and really fun ● I have lots of people I can trust ● I have friends ● We have a caring community with lots of welcoming smiles ● Really cool farm animals, fun play equipment and heart warming people ● There is so much to do and I make nice friends ● There are nice people that help me ● Fun and I like doing work 	The best thing about my school is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are lots of things to do at recess and lunch ● The kind teachers ● Everyone is mostly kind ● Learning is fun ● All the farm animals ● The staff and students because they are nice to everyone ● Caring friends ● Good playground ● We get to play outside ● My friends
I feel happy at school because <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I can come to school and have a great day with my friends ● In the morning there is always a cheerful teacher at the gate ● I feel welcomed ● School is fun ● You always have somewhere to play and someone to play with ● I have really kind friends and the school is cool ● I have friends to play with ● Friends make me happy ● Friends to play with ● Some people are nice to me ● People draw with me ● I get treated well instead of what happens at home ● The teachers are really nice 	I feel safe at school because <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The teachers care about us ● Teachers protect us from something that is happening that is bad ● Lots of teachers around ● My teachers keep us safe ● There are lots of teachers ● The staff and teachers can protect everyone ● My friends are protective and the teachers are here to keep us safe ● We have such a close community and can always rely on each other for good and bad things ● There are tons of adults looking after us ● There are people I can trust ● The teachers care about you ● I come to school being comforted by friends and teachers
The teachers at my school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Are nice and willing to help you if you are stuck ● Can be on and off but mostly half way between ● Are very nice ● Are helpful ● Are very kind and welcoming ● Most of them are kind ● Are nice and kind and they help me learn new things every day ● Caring ● Sometimes crabby, sometimes smiley 	In our school we are mostly kind to one another because <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We all have someone to play with and equipment to play on ● We are helping out younger students, the teachers are really helpful and students are always greeting each other ● School should be a fun space and by being kind it shows we care and can have fun while learning ● People are caring ● Everyone is super friendly ● Problems are resolved quickly



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