



St Peter Chanel
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

27th 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 Peter Chanel Catholic School is a Kindergarten to Year 6 school in Smithton, North-West Tasmania. The school has a consistently growing student population. Our school has experienced consistent growth, with a student population of 145 in 2022, increasing to 158 in 2024, and a projected enrolment of 164 students in 2025. We are proud to have a significant number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, who represent 41% of our current student population.

At St Peter Chanel Catholic School, we prioritise the safety and well-being of our students by promoting and nurturing our Catholic ethos and values: service, respect, kindness, and compassion. These values foster a strong sense of community and belonging, providing a supportive learning environment where students can grow spiritually, academically, and socially. Our aim is for every student to feel safe, valued, and loved.

We welcome families who seek the education we provide. While we are a Catholic school, the majority of our students are non-Catholic, whose parents enrol them with the commitment to fully respect our Catholic faith. In 2024, our student body includes 37 Catholic students, along with others from Anglican, Christian, Islamic, and non-religious backgrounds. We celebrate and respect the diverse cultural backgrounds and religions within our school community, fostering an inclusive environment where all faiths are honoured.

Our school embraces students from various socio-economic backgrounds, offering fee assistance to families in need, ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder access to a quality Catholic education. We also support students across the spectrum of disabilities, providing tailored support, resources and programs to ensure every child can thrive.

Our Religious Education curriculum teaches every child about God's plan for our happiness and the importance of every person and their unique place in His creation. The foundation of our lessons is built on our values and fosters an understanding of our shared humanity and the dignity of every individual. Through the teachings of our Catholic faith, we inspire students to recognise their own worth and the worth of others.

At St Peter Chanel Catholic School, we have a dedicated behaviour curriculum that we explicitly teach, review, and reinforce. Central to this curriculum is our school-wide mantra, 'The SPC Way - the way we do things here'. This mantra embodies our commitment to creating a positive and respectful school culture. We use a common school-wide language as part of this approach, ensuring that students clearly understand the expectations and values we uphold.

Students are explicitly taught these expectations, and we reward and acknowledge adherence to 'The SPC Way'. This means that students don't have to guess or interpret rules or expectations about how they should treat each other. We maintain zero tolerance for bullying and work diligently to create a safe and supportive environment for everyone.

To encourage respect and consideration for others, we use positive reinforcement, recognition, and regular discussions about the importance of these values and expectations. Our approach includes celebrating students who consistently demonstrate the SPC Way, awarding acknowledgements during assemblies and in classrooms, using consistent language and reminders about our expectations, teaching and guiding students in resolving conflicts peacefully and respectfully, and having staff members model respectful and courteous behaviour. Through these strategies, we strive to cultivate a school environment where every student feels valued, respected, and empowered to contribute positively to our community. As a result of all that we do, we have negligible incidents of bullying.

We believe that student well-being comes from being accepted and welcomed and from experiencing success in learning. We implement the Science of Learning approach across the school, ensuring a consistent and effective method of teaching and learning. This approach provides structured classrooms and learning environments where routines and expectations are clear.

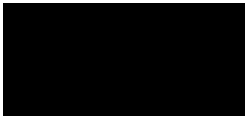
Our robust curriculum is designed to meet the diverse needs of all students, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to succeed. We offer comprehensive intervention programs that address individual learning needs, helping students overcome challenges and achieve their full potential. By creating active and engaging learning experiences, we ensure that students are motivated and involved in their education.

When students know what is expected of them and are actively engaged in learning that meets their individual needs, there is little need for them to engage in bullying or poor behaviour. High self-esteem and the fulfilment of social, emotional, and academic needs contribute to a positive and respectful school community.

By integrating these programs and structures, we create an environment where every student feels accepted, welcomed, and capable of achieving success in their learning journey. The combination of clear behavioural expectations through the SPC Way and the consistent, evidence-based approach of the Science of Learning ensures that our students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

St Peter Chanel Catholic School is dedicated to nurturing the whole child, fostering a community where faith and learning come together to ensure a safe environment where all students can succeed.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Kerrie Flynn

PRINCIPAL

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