



## **College Submission**

### **29 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

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St James Catholic College has been built upon the traditional lands of the Merluckerdee people.

In 1896 the Sisters of St Joseph arrived in Cygnet to teach at St Mary's School on a site adjacent to the present school. In 1921 the Sisters moved to new premises on the current school site but under the name of Sacred Heart School. Twenty three years later the Christian Brothers were invited to develop an Agricultural College for the boys in the Cygnet community.

The amalgamation of the two schools began tentatively with some classes shared in a co-instruction model. As the numbers of religious teachers began to decline the school moved to a lay Principal in 1976. The school now took on the title of a College and was known as St James College. The College was fully co-educational. From 2008 the school name changed to St James Catholic College.

From humble beginnings the College has continued to develop across the years as buildings have been added and refurbishments undertaken.

## **Current Context**

St James Catholic College is a coeducational Catholic school serving families from a diverse socio-economic background in the Huon Valley, Tasmania. The school operates for students from Kinder to Year 10.

## **Wellbeing Programs**

Students have access to a school counsellor from Monday to Friday in a dedicated Wellbeing Hub.

Wellbeing intervention supports are provided for individuals and small groups dependent upon need. Programs such as Peaceful Kids, Stop Think Do and Rainbows are implemented in the Primary School, while programs provided by Eddie Rice, Live Life Whole and Catholic Care support Secondary Students.

## **Cultural Enrichment**

**46% of Students** (n =107) identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

Under the leadership of an Aboriginal Student Support Teacher, Aboriginal students are supported with specific intervention programs for both learning needs and wellbeing support, while whole school programs provide cultural awareness, support and recognition for the Aboriginal People of the region (Melukurdee). Connection and engagement with local Elders and organisations (such as South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation), as well as on-country experiences and learning also supports the authentic development of Aboriginal education at St James.

## **Learning Support and Intervention**

**28% of Students** (n = 64) have a diagnosed disability or learning disorder, and are registered on the NCCD.

The Student Support Coordinator ensures that students have access to appropriate support such as 1:1 intervention, programs and access to meet the needs of the curriculum.

Programs for literacy such as MacqLit and MiniLit are used in small groups. Numeracy is also provided in 1:1 and small group settings.

A dedicated learning Hub is available for intervention support.

Student Voice

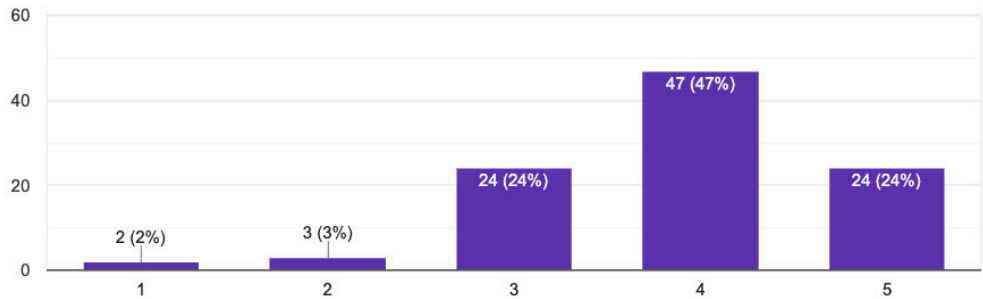
A recent survey of 100 student conducted on 30/7/24 highlighted the following:

- **95% of students rated safety as being 3/5 or greater. See results below:**

Please rate how safe you feel at St James Catholic College ...

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100 responses

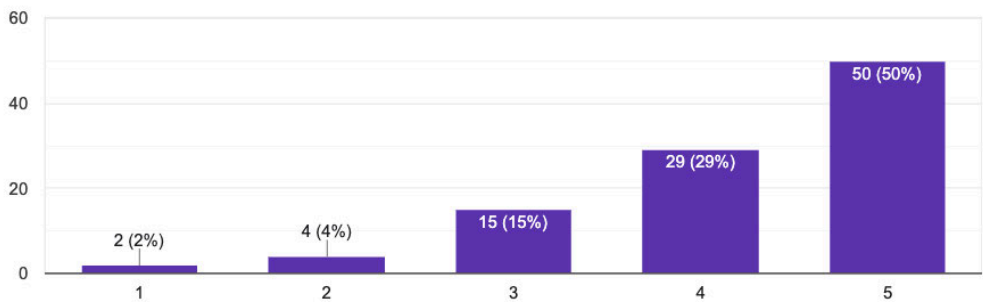


- **School values (Faith, Learning, Attitude, Mutual respect, Encouragement, Safety) are well known. See results below:**

In our school, everyone knows why our FLAMES values are important...

 Copy

100 responses



- **In most instances, students described the school in a positive way - as per the sample of responses below:**

The best thing about my school is ...

100 responses

playground and oval
Seeing my friends and teachers.
being with my friends and doing my electives
being with my friends
laptops
Art and sport
The most important thing is the teachers
My teacher and my friends
My friends and school sport teams, (girls basketball team)

- **Teachers were described in positive ways: most often 'kind and caring', 'nice' and 'good at teaching and helping me to learn' as per the sample below.**

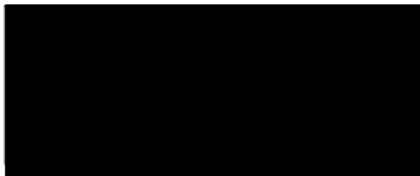
Please finish this sentence:

The teachers at my school...

100 responses

Are kind and considerate.
are kind, helpful, and supportive in my learning.
sometimes alright mostly not
I really like my teachers most of the time
are smart
are kind funny and are always there to help
Are caring.
the teachers at my school are there to teach you and not muck arounds. teachers here care about your education and wellbeing
are nice and helpful

Warm regards,



Joseph Sandric  
**Principal**