



Catholic
Education
Tasmania

SCHOOL VALIDATION REPORT

School Name:

John Paul II Catholic School

**Previous Validation:
Date**

2018

Principal:

Brendan Gill

Panel Chair:

Martin Tobin

Panel Members:

Stuart Kelly	Regional Principal Leader - South
Martin Tobin	Director: Catholic Identity & Evangelisation
Marcus Donnelly	Principal: St Cuthbert's Catholic School

Validation Date:

Friday 30 August 2023

Synopsis of School Profile and Contextual Information

John Paul II Catholic Primary School (JP II) Rokeby, was originally established to serve those families seeking an affordable K-6 Catholic Education within the lower socio-economic areas around Clarendon Vale and Rokeby.

While these families continue to represent approximately 70% of the enrolments, the outstanding reputation of the school is now also attracting new enrolments from families in Howrah, Midway Point, Sandford and Seven Mile Beach. The school's motto "*To love and serve the Lord in Peace*" continues to underpin the school's mission and outreach as it navigates the challenges of meeting the changing needs of their students.

The school has a very strong Early Learning program providing both *Set up for Success* and *Ludo* programs which support students to transition into the full school program with the highest chance of success.

With 230 students, including a growing cohort of both EALD students and students requiring both extensive and substantial support, John Paul II is working hard to deliver a wide range of specific support mechanisms to provide scaffolded learning across the whole school.

The Panel were provided with an extensive tour of the school by JP II students. The students were very proud to show the recent addition of the new hall Emmaus and resurfacing of the courts and confidently shared information on upcoming changes to the oval, bike track and vegetable gardens. The students were able to explain the new Student Lunch program and how important it was to eat, play and learn together.

Since the last Validation, Brendan Gill has been appointed as the new Principal of JP II. The Principal, along with the Leadership team at JP II have worked diligently to build a solid strategic plan aimed at building on the success of the school into the future.

Father Mark Freeman has also now joined the school as the Parish Priest. Fr Mark provides a high level of support to both the Principal and the wider community to support the mission and outreach and to facilitate and support a developing Parish Sacramental program.

Evidence of Community Engagement in Validation Preparation

Required documentation was made available to the Validation Panel prior to its visit and the school's leadership were well-prepared for the Validation process. The Leadership Team has gone to a lot of effort to address the recommendations of the previous Validation as well as sharing an excellent presentation on the school's strategies and goals with the Validation Panel.

Survey data was received from students, parents and staff with an indication of the high satisfaction from students and staff seen through their participation rates:

Parents 19.2% response rate – 85% satisfaction

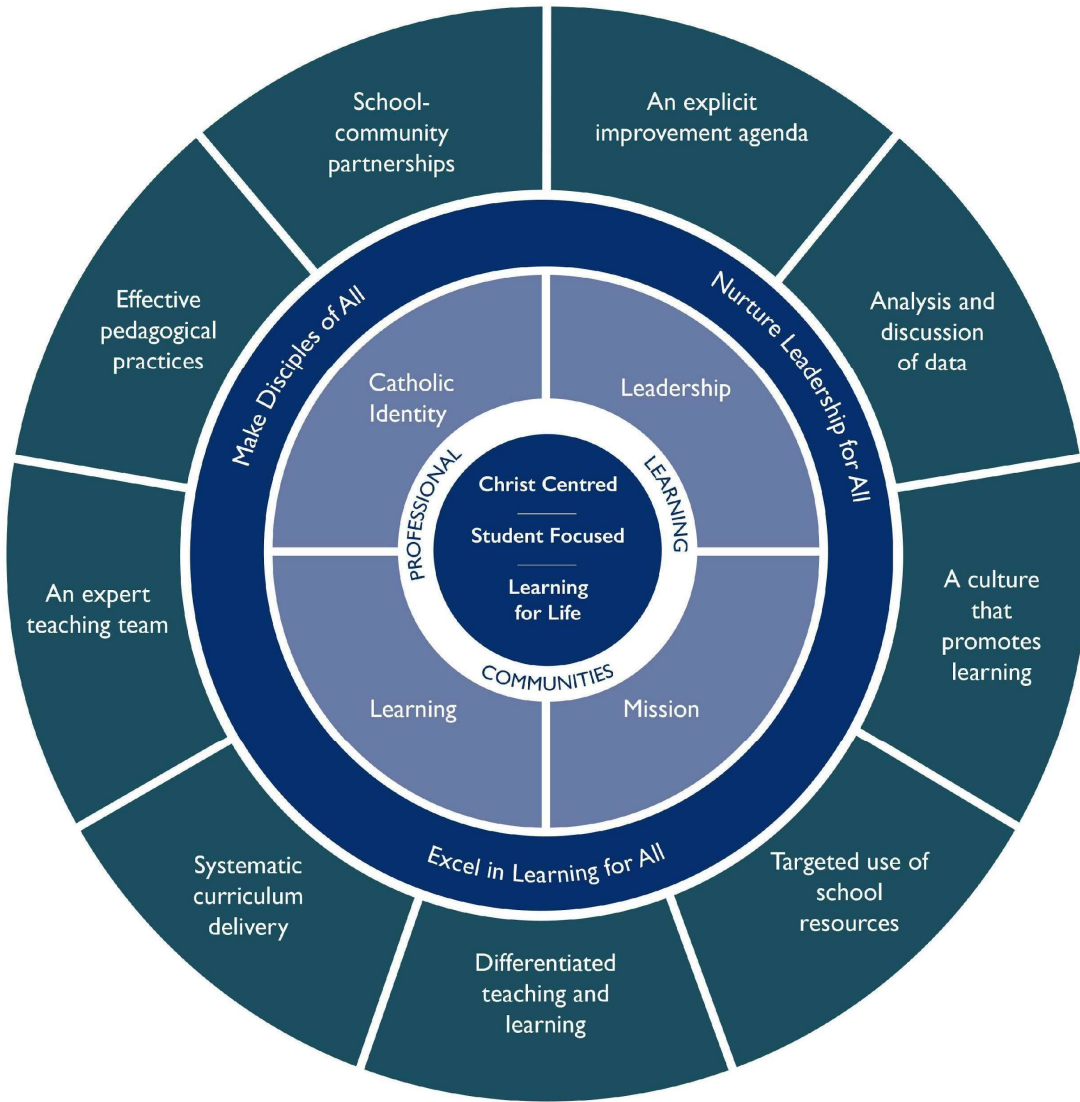
Staff 71.7% response – 85% satisfaction

Students 87.2% response – 75% satisfaction

The Board discussion was very engaging, and it was clear this group were particularly happy with the leadership of school, in particular the caring and courageous approach show by the Principal. The Board discussed the welcoming culture at the school and that they enjoyed the community feel fostered by the staff. The Board acknowledged their desire to help grow parent engagement within the school.

The Panel members noted there is a genuine community spirit that is nurtured by leadership and felt by the Board, staff and students. There is a genuine desire, backed up by commitment and hard work of staff to see all students achieve their best outcome which was affirmed by the Parish Priest, Staff, Students and the Board.

Framework for School Improvement



Validation Report is currently transitioning to a new Framework for School Improvement for 2023 Validation. The new Framework is not a mandatory requirement for 2023 schools that are being validated.

Catholic Identity and Evangelisation

Following on from JPPI's previous validation, there has been a focus and commitment to Religious Education program at the school, including the inclusion of Religious Education Curriculum on the Schools Strategic Plan.

The Panel enjoyed joining the Year 1's for Morning Prayer and it was clear this time is the opportunity for all students to enthusiastically share their joyful pray.

The school has created structures that support learning for staff, through regular fortnightly visits from the CI&E Education support staff providing school based Professional learning on Meaningful Structure which will support staff in deepening their own practice of and enable them to better support their students in growing their Christian faith.

With the support of Father Mark, there is increased support for the Sacramental Program to provide opportunities to evangelise to the non-Catholic students and families at the school provide a pathway to welcome them into the Catholic faith.

Fostering Learning

There is solid evidence to show that the Principal and Leadership team are using data to measure outcomes and inform decisions on future learning strategies at JPPI.

Using assessments, such as Phonological Awareness Testing, through to tracking student progress using Pre-lit, Data-lit, Spelling Mastery, Dibels and more, it is clear the school is using data to inform decision making to support student's learning needs. The whole School Literacy Program has delivered real and significant improvement to students which was most clearly evident in the recent NAPLAN results.

The introduction of 15-minute parent conferences to support the Mid-Year Reports has increased the engagement of parents with their child's learning and provided an excellent opportunity to educate parents on how their child's work is assessed.

Following on from the completion of their previous online literacy course, staff are well prepared to shift the focus to the Science of Learning. The Panel was very pleased to hear that teachers are seeing students highly engaged with the explicit teaching methodology used in classes.

Leadership

In 2020, The Principal and Leadership Team engaged an external review to understand and prioritise areas of improvement. These priorities included improvements to grounds and buildings, new logo, re-branding, being 'less masculine' and becoming more progressive.

Following this, JP11 co-created their Strategic Plan identifying their Area of Strength as 'Humanistic & Encouraging', with 'Achievement' highlighted as the greatest Area of Growth.

From this, whole school changes have been implemented, including:

- a new timetable - which extended the school day
- a whole school Literacy Plan
- PEEC (Positive Education) program
- Buddy program with MacKillop Catholic College
- Positive attendance project (including Student Lunch program)
- Building up Library resources
- Face to face Parent Conferences for Reporting feedback

Upon reflection, the Principal confirmed the future opportunity where SMART Goals would be included within the Strategic Plan, and while the Panel agree with this, the Panel would like to acknowledge and congratulate the enormous commitment, energy and work that has been shown by the whole school in achieving real and remarkable change in a short period of time.

Support for Mission

The new hall Emmaus has elevated JP11 providing a modern and welcoming place for all students to gather, share time and conversation over a meal as well as providing new, modern and bright learning spaces. The inclusion of after school Dance classes will assist in lifting awareness of the school and the some of the extra-curricular opportunities provides to its students.

Utilisation of the resurfaced courts is maximised by timetabling activities in the morning, which serves the dual purpose of participating in team activities as well as expending any excess energy prior to starting the school day. With the new bike track, work on the oval and new vegetable gardens soon to be ready for students, JP11 will be able to provide a wide variety of activities to complement the existing spaces enjoyed by their students.

The redesign of the school logo and modernizing of the Parent Handbook, website and social media pages will continue to increase engagement within the school community and lift the profile of the school to a wider audience. JP11 will continue to see growth in enrolment enquiries as residential development continues and your reputation for providing high quality education alongside specialist support for those students with high needs grows within the community.

Implementation of Systemic or Government Educational Initiatives

Non-Government Schools Registration Board Requirements

Catholic schools undertaking the external Validation process from 2018 onwards will complete the registration process in accord with the processes articulated in the document Catholic Education Tasmania Archdiocese of Hobart System Application for Registration 2018 (dated 20/12/17). The external Validation process contributes to this process of registration and formally audits the compliance of one of the Office of Non-State Schools Standards, as per the System Application for Registration document.

In 2023 all schools undertaking Validation were required to provide documentary evidence on Standard Four Reporting and Assessment. The Validation Panel engaged in specific dialogue around this documentation in its formal visit to John Paul II Catholic School which is summarised below. This process also required the Principal and Leadership Team members to provide evidence to the Panel as to the progress of the school's educational goals and directions and included evidence regarding assessment and reporting policies and practices.

All relevant documentation for 2023 was uploaded to a secure Google site by the Principal and authorised TCEO staff prior to the Panel's Visit on 30 August 2023.

The Panel's External Chair conducted formal conversation Marisa Newman, Manager School Validation and Education Regulation regarding the other aspects of compliance that is managed on behalf of the Catholic system and as articulated in the System Application for Registration document.

Standard Four –Reporting and Assessment

The comprehensive presentation and subsequent discussions the Principal and Leadership team explained the Reporting and Assessment processes and documentation of JP11.

A significant number of documents were made available for review prior to and during the Validation Interview.

All documentation was sighted by the Panel which included (but was not limited to):

- Student Reports (Mid-Year, Narrative and End of Year)
- Individual subject Scope and Sequence (per Year Level)
- Term planning including Assessment Evidence
- JP11 – Student Support NCCD Learning Plan
- JP11 – Behaviour Support Plan
- Data Analysis & Response – Reporting and Assessment Report

Commendations

There has been a significant amount of work to create strategies outlined in the *2020 - 2023 Strategic Plan* including a comprehensive list of actions that are well underway to deliver these goals and a strong commitment to using data to inform your future decision making.

Throughout the interviews with staff, students and Board members, the leadership of the school and particularly the Principal were consistently highlighted as the key reason for the creation of a culture of both pastoral care as well as learning achievement within the school. All parties stated they feel a sense of belonging and welcome within the school and they feel proud to be part of the JP11 community.

The whole school focus on reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation has resulted in substantial improvement in the literacy levels of your students. The commitment of staff to completing the online literacy training program and continued committed to the implementation of the system initiative, *Science of Learning*, is highly commended and shows both the staff's willingness for professional growth as well as their continued commitment to the improvement of your student's outcomes.

Recommendations

1. Consolidate the early success of the whole school literacy program through alignment with the system-wide embracing of the Science of Learning, for the provision of a knowledge-rich Catholic curriculum and the embedding of high impact teaching practice for Religious Education and the Key Learning areas of the Australian Curriculum.
2. Initiate a Parent Engagement Strategy within your future Strategic Plan utilising the experience and knowledge of your Advisory Board for support and guidance.
3. Nurture the development of Christ-centred leadership of the school by explicating and deepening a culture of practice for leadership, enabling leadership through faith in action and the growth of all leaders in the school, students, staff and parents.
4. Enhance the coherence of the key statements established within the school in alignment with the Gospel, given expression within the Archbishop's Charter for Catholic Schools, referencing in practical ways the founding Charisms, for the purpose of improving their application.

Panel Chair Signature

Date: