

McCarthy  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

*Receive Worship Serve*

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# EDUCATIONAL BRIEF

The Educational Brief for McCarthy Catholic College, Tamworth is designed to inform the Facilities Master Plan of our secondary college from 2020 onwards.

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# McCarthy Catholic College

## Educational brief

### Introduction

The Educational Brief for McCarthy Catholic College, Tamworth is designed to inform the Facilities Master Plan of our secondary college from 2020 onwards. The initial focus is ten years (2020 - 2030)

McCarthy Catholic College, which opened in January 2000, is being developed to:

- Accommodate potential growth in student numbers within the Tamworth region.
- Provide a connection to Catholic secondary education primarily for the students at local Catholic Primary Schools and Catholic students at associated department and independent schools.
- Additional purposes of this Educational Brief include: Discernment of a curriculum framework best suited to the College and its students
- Discernment of organisational structures best suited to supporting the development and delivery of the proposed curriculum framework
- Informing the induction and ongoing professional learning priorities for the school leadership, staff and the wider community.



## The Educational Context

### A Non-negotiable external and systemic registration requirements

1. [Alice Springs \(Mparntwe\) Education Declaration 2019](#)
2. [Religious Education policy](#) and [curriculum](#) requirements
3. [NESA curriculum requirements](#)
4. [NSW and the Australian Curriculum](#)
5. [14 Parameters \(Sharratt\)](#)
6. [Non-Negotiables of a CPLC](#)

### B Key Themes for Reflection - The Learning and Teaching Profile

- a. What do we want our Teaching & Learning to look like in the classrooms at McCarthy?
- b. Does the Vision for Teaching & Learning align to and is a direct aspiration of the College Mission Statement?
- c. How do contemporary approaches to Teaching & Learning inform our thinking?
  1. *Highly-detailed resource from [NSW Department of Education](#) that includes Learning Modes; Learning Dispositions; etc.*
  2. *[Example from Diocese of Lismore](#)*
  3. *Applied example from [Kildare Catholic College](#), Wagga Wagga including the notion of a 'The Worthwhile Lesson'*
  4. *Others?*



- d. Where does project-based and/or collaborative learning experiences, for example, STEM, iSTEM, STEAM, etc. figure in our vision?
- e. What about the range of Board Developed Courses and Board Endorsed Courses, as well as VET Board Endorsed Courses?
- f. What about Students with Disability (SWD); Extension Classes; and English is an additional language or dialect (EAL/D)? What facilities would then be needed? Resources and staffing?
- g. What organisational structures best support the delivery of curriculum within the college?  
*ie. Do we see it this way? Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 or should our learning be staged ie. Stage 4 (Years 7-8) / Stage 5 (Years 9-10) / Stage 6 (Years 11-12)? If so, then - what is our vision for each stage of learning? ie. What is the philosophy of Stage 5 electives? Compacted curriculum offerings for Stage 6?*
- h. What about the specific teaching and learning of Religious Education?  
*ie. Are the connections between classroom learning, teaching and the religious life of the school reflected and promoted in the College programs? Do the teaching/ learning and liturgical experiences provided by the school support teaching students religion and teaching students to be religious?*
- i. What about Pastoral Care and Wellbeing?  
*ie. What is the Philosophy and aims of the program?*
- j. What about Co-curricular Activities?  
*ie. What is the Philosophy and aims of the program?*
- k. What about the Professional Learning program for Staff?  
*ie. What is the Philosophy and aims of the program?*



# McCarthy Catholic College

## Educational brief

### **C** Therefore - What are the implications of the above reflections for Facilities Master Planning?

For example -

Prayer and Worship Spaces	Gathering Spaces
Accessibility (Disability)	Traffic Management in and out of the college
Whole College Assembly Area	'Front-of-House' 'Notice-me-first' frontage of the college
Withdrawal Facilities	Library/Resource Centre design
Counselling Spaces	Standard Classroom furniture vs. Specialised furniture/spaces
Indoor and Outdoor and Combined/ Flexible Learning Spaces	Meeting Rooms and/or Training Rooms
Specialised Senior Study/Tutor Spaces	VET/Careers Spaces
Specialised Parent Services	Specialised Student Services
Managing sick students	Access of teachers to Administrative support

# McCarthy Catholic College

## Educational brief

Separate Toilet facilities for each Stage	Dedicated Toilet Access for staff across the full breadth of the college
Staffroom layout ie. Indoor and Outdoor and Combined / Flexible / Withdrawal / Private Spaces	
Easily supervised play/lunch spaces	Contemporary canteen facilities; Cafeteria-style food and beverage service
An RE block - similar to PAC, with classrooms opening onto a large space for combined prayer and liturgy; discussion circles etc	A small designated space for quiet prayer and reflection for staff and a Chapel onsite
Examination & Testing centre	



### **D** Therefore - What is the Growth Target for the College 2020-2030?

*ie. 6 streams currently (880) to 8 streams (1200)? Why? The Pros and Cons of the growth target? Should the emphasis be on growing MCC to 1200 or build a second Catholic secondary school in Tamworth of 800 students each? Competition between the schools, opportunity for staff to move between schools has been advantageous in other regional towns.*

### **E** 'Big Picture Dreaming?'

*ie. 'Cradle to Grave' Catholic education in Tamworth (Early Childhood Centre onsite at MCC to allow access for MCC Child Studies, Food Tech, PDHPE students to work with young children; then on to local catholic primary schools; then return to MCC; then partner with UNE for tertiary education students to work weekly at MCC as part of their study/practicums; then partner with local aged care facilities for weekly access for MCC students to participate in targeted service-learning program; etc.*

*Or, a Prep to Tertiary mega school that unites St Edward's on the one campus with prep, primary, secondary and tertiary on the one campus. Would this attract more funding as it is a new school?*

*Or, the creation of a VET school like [Newman Senior Technical College](#) (Port Macquarie) in Tamworth?*

*Plus, Boarding option to attract country catholic students that currently choose Calrossy? (nb. Gloria Thew House is currently on the market)*

