

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BROKEN BAY CHARTER



Purpose of the Charter

“ The charter is an articulation of who we are, our way of being in the light of the Gospel within a complex and socially diverse society. It invites our students, their families and our people to accompany us as we seek to grow in relationship with Jesus and to understand and shape our world. ”



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BROKEN BAY



Mission Priorities of the Bishop of Broken Bay

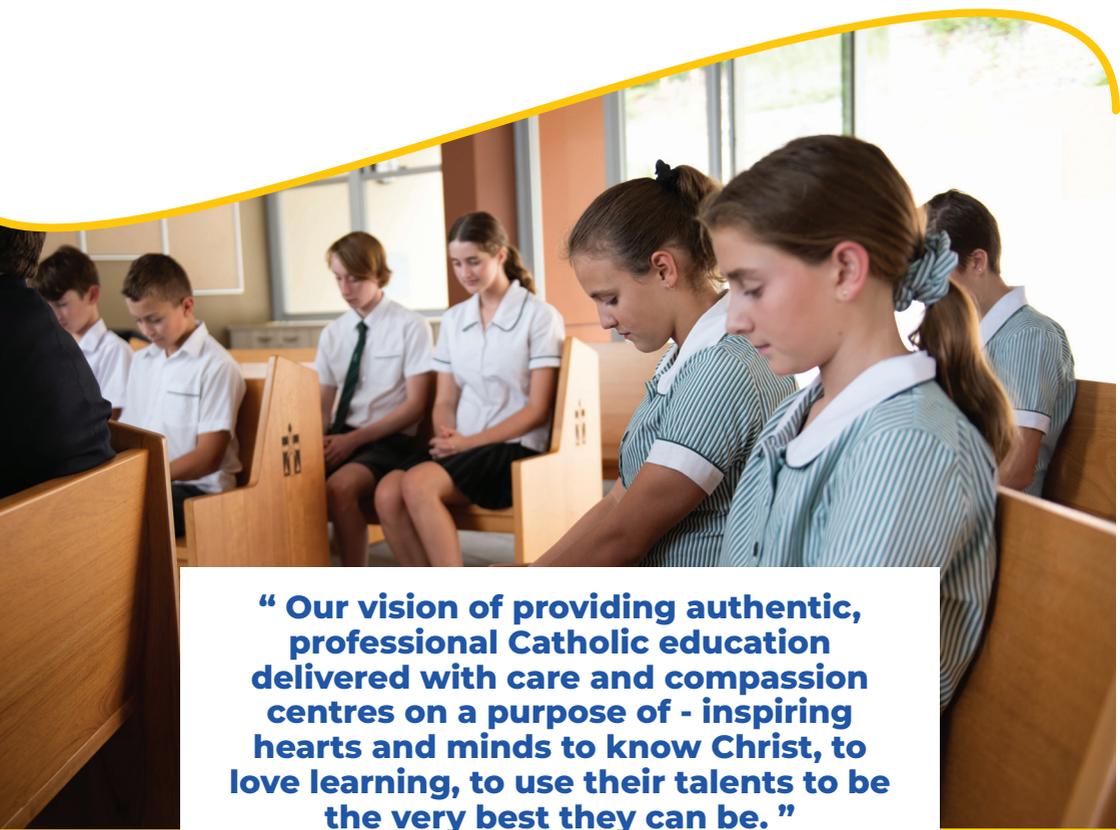
The Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay is a portion of the people of God, a community of Christ's faithful in communion of faith and sacraments with its bishop. It exists to evangelise, to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ, gathered as one body, and sent out to be missionary disciples.

Foundational Pillars

Under the Bishop's leadership of the diocese, we conduct our service on the Three Foundational Pillars of Commission, Community and Common Good which give focus to our work and our mission priorities:

- 1 Commission** is Evangelisation and Mission: We create opportunities for genuine encounter with the person of Jesus Christ, focusing on his message of the Good News. From this place of encounter or relationship with the person of Jesus, we encourage those in the community to become missionary disciples, spreading this Good News to others through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- 2 Community** is Ecclesial Gatherings: We gather as a community, united by the person of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Through promoting a life centred on prayer, the sacraments, liturgy, and our common call to holiness, those in our community will be empowered to discern their individual gifts and find their place in Christ's spiritual body, the Church.
- 3 Common Good** is Justice and Peace: We promote the full flourishing of human life through authentic Catholic education. A particular emphasis will be on holding the poor and vulnerable at the heart of our community, that we may foster love and mercy for all.

Vision of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Broken Bay



“ Our vision of providing authentic, professional Catholic education delivered with care and compassion centres on a purpose of - inspiring hearts and minds to know Christ, to love learning, to use their talents to be the very best they can be. ”

Towards 2025

We believe that in Christ we are provided the pattern of full maturity, to live life to the full (John 10:10). Our schools exist to form young people in Christ's vision of life as it has been interpreted by the Catholic community of faith over many centuries. As schools within the Catholic tradition, we are committed to the holistic development of each of our students - physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially and spiritually.

Through the mystery of the Incarnation God became one like us, so that by following the example and teaching of Jesus Christ, we might become more like Him. In this way, all people are called to holiness: to flourish and become more fully the human persons that God has created them to be in what they do and the way they do it. By upholding and promoting the values of Faith, Joy, Witness, Compassion and Courage, parents, children, teachers and those that work to support our schools draw near to Christ and His Church.

In many concrete ways and means those working in CSBB seek to continually draw near to the Church and to encounter with Christ, his person, opening themselves to new horizons. [#29, Directory for Catechesis]

Authenticity, freedom and choice

The choice of a Catholic education is one made freely in recognition of the ethos that underpins and guides our schools.

Our schools seek to support parents in their primary role as a child's first faith educator at home. We partner with them in the community of Catholic faith. We do this in offering experiences of prayer, conversation, retreats, and accompaniment, developed in collaboration with the parish community of which the school is an essential part of its mission.

Employment is a choice freely made in our schools. By affiliation with our schools as a staff member, a choice is made to collaborate with the school's mission to form students according to the Catholic worldview, developing a critical understanding of society in the light of the Gospel, with an understanding of gender, sexuality and marriage that accords with the Catholic Tradition, and with an appreciation of life as a gift that is received, not self-determined, from conception until death.

Our schools welcome people of diverse backgrounds who will work to sustain and promote these principles as the primary characteristic of a Catholic school community.

Our schools understand that their vision of the human person is not shared by various sectors of society. However, in a pluralist context our schools affirm their right to be different in their philosophy and teaching. Engaging with Catholic education, whether as a parent, student or member of staff, is a choice one makes according to one's own circumstances considered in light of our schools' objectives and mission.

Catholic Schools Broken Bay will:

- 1** Work in partnership with, and support parents as the primary educators of their children and accompany them and their families to know Christ and to grow in faith.
- 2** Promote authentic Catholic education for the flourishing of human and faith development by leading teaching and learning to maximise the learning growth of each student and recognise and respond to learner diversity.
- 3** Enable students to know, understand and celebrate their Catholic faith through the implementation of the Religious Education curriculum.
- 4** Support teachers of Religious Education to develop strong content knowledge to implement excellent classroom practices and to be witnesses to the Faith.
- 5** Strengthen structures, building on the relationships and connections between family, school, parish and Diocese.
- 6** Encourage students and their families' participation in and commitment to the Catholic life of the school through prayer, formation and involvement in the life of the parish, including Sunday Mass with the purpose of developing a personal relationship with Christ.
- 7** Teach students and staff, in justice and mercy, to place the poor at the heart of the Church.
- 8** Care for students and staff through inclusive pastoral care and wellbeing policies and practices.
- 9** With the Holy Spirit's guidance, foster a culture of vocation for all by building the capabilities of our staff for mission.



**“ For it is because God is good we exist;
and so far as we truly exist we are good. ”**

— **St Augustine, On Christian Doctrine**



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