

**ARCHDIOCESE OF HOBART**

**John Paul II**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



**ANNUAL  
SCHOOL COMMUNITY  
REPORT**

**2023**

**John Paul II Catholic School**  
**161 Mockridge Road, Rokeby**  
**Tasmania**  
**7019**  
**0362477104**  
**Principal: Brendan Gill**

*John Paul II Catholic School*  
*Vision Statement*

Our Vision is to inspire our students to achieve their potential through a lived commitment to Catholic values.

John Paul II Catholic School is a dynamic, inspiring community. We share a love of learning and an authentic desire to make a difference in the life of every student by empowering them to achieve their personal best. Our committed team of educators work in partnership with our students, parents, guardians, the school board, the parish and the community. Our students are preparing to be ethical, valued and active members of society.

*Mission Statement*

All that we do at John Paul II Catholic School is founded on the mission lived by Jesus Christ. We provide the opportunity and support to guide students in their learning to enable them to flourish.

## *Values*

We are committed to Christian values and in particular, outreach to those in need.

- Spirituality
- Resilience
- Curiosity
- Connectedness
- Respect
- Integrity
- Kindness
- Inclusion
- Achievement
- Creativity
- Empathy
- Learning
- Justice
- Care for one another

## **History of the School**

John Paul II was founded by the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office in 1983, with the mission to provide an affordable education to all families who seek a Catholic education within the communities of Clarendon Vale, Rokeby, Oakdowns, Lauderdale and surrounding areas.

Our founding principal, George Toepfer had a passion to realise Archbishop Guilford Young's hope of bringing Catholic Education to Clarence Plains. The School comes from humble beginnings and started its journey with just two teachers who worked with the local community to develop a school that would uphold the John Paul II motto: to love and serve the Lord in peace. The School has always worked hard to support all families, particularly the poor and marginalised.

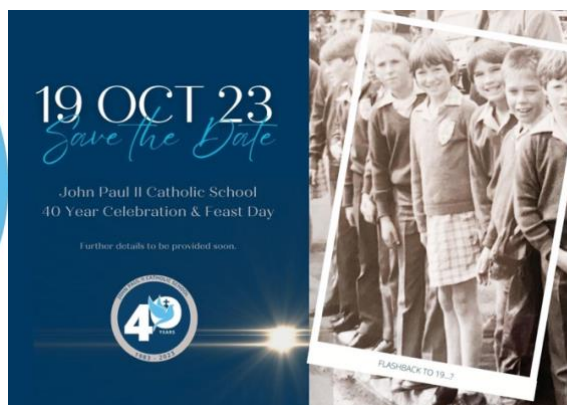
Our School takes inspiration from the life of Saint John Paul II and his dedication to the service of others. Throughout its history, the school has always encouraged students to develop their gifts as individuals and to live lives of purpose, in the spirit of John Paul II.

In recent times, John Paul II has found itself in one of the main 'growth corridors' of Clarence, embracing the new areas of Oakdowns and Glebe Hill, as well as the growing areas of Rokeby, Lauderdale and the South Arm Peninsula.

We welcome you to find out more about our proud history and our vision for the future.

## 40 Years

In 2023, we celebrated forty years as a school. This was celebrated through several events, culminating in two 40-year concerts with an item from every class, as well as our many extracurricular celebrations. The events were well attended by the whole community.



# **STAFF LIST 2023**

## **Leadership Positions**

Principal: Brendan Gill

Acting Deputy Principal: Lauren Hall

Student Support Coordinator: Alison Wightman

Religious Education Coordinator: Jane Davies

Early Learning Centre Leader: Laura Lange

## **Administration & Utility**

Business Manager: Anne Tanner/Annette Fox

Administration, Work, Health & Safety: Jody Rye

Administration & Communications: Donna Meaghan

Utility Officer: John Hallsworth

Trainee Utility: Matthew Westwood

Bus Driver: John Hallsworth

Cleaner: Robyn Fisher

## **Teaching Positions**

Early Learning Centre (including Kinder): Laura Lange

Prep: Rebecca Johnson

Grade One: Megan Hickey (M-Th), Andrea Watt (F)

Grade Two: Bec Woolley (M-Th), Sharni Rickards (F)

Blackwood : Amanda Belbin (Tu-F), Shan Moynihan (M)

Myrtle: Jane Davies

Huon: Fiona Nolan

Sassafras: Kelly Collinson (M-Th), Shan Moynihan (F)

Chinese: Flora Pan

Music: Hannah Krishnan

Physical Education: Susan Andrews

Art: Joanna Boyd/Christina Booth

Student Support Teacher: Sharni Rickards

Head of Library: Kathryn Jaeger

Extension: Andrea Watt

### **Teacher Assistants**

Lydia Crow

Jessica De Vries

Sarah Fitzgerald

Jodi Headlam

Sarah Hull

Jesse McGuinness

Kylie Quilliam

Fiona Roberts

Joanne Whitton

Jessica Giffard

Nicole Rosson

Hannah Edwards

Claire Cranfield

Joel Quilliam

Ramanpreet Kaur

### **Wellbeing Team**

CatholicCare Counsellor: Whitney Mackay

School Chaplain: Hannah Edwards

### **Other**

Speech and Language Therapist: Lisa Johnson

Psychologist: Kirby Jones

Library Technician: Kristia Gluyas

Cafe Manager: Andrea Comino

Café Assistant: Bridget Henwood

St Thomas Aquinas Cadet Teachers: Joshua Prichard and Emma Williams

**Student Makeup 2023**

<b>Classes</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Catholic Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Catholic Girls</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Kinder</b>	14	4	15	5	29
<b>Prep</b>	12	3	20	2	32
<b>Grade 1</b>	18	7	10	3	28
<b>Grade 2</b>	14	1	15	6	29
<b>Grade 3</b>	12	2	15	4	27
<b>Grade 4</b>	21	7	14	0	35
<b>Grade 5</b>	11	4	15	1	26
<b>Grade 6</b>	14	1	8	1	22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>228</b>

**Student Attendance 2023**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>No of Students</b>	<b>% Attendance</b>
<b>Kinder</b>	29	92%
<b>Prep</b>	32	90.10%
<b>Grade 1</b>	28	85.60%
<b>Grade 2</b>	29	88.90%
<b>Grade 3</b>	27	90.70%
<b>Grade 4</b>	35	88.00%
<b>Grade 5</b>	26	86.40%
<b>Grade 6</b>	22	86.10%



## **CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION**

### **Liturgical prayer and life 2023**

Whole school masses and celebrations were held throughout the year. These included; beginning and end of year masses, special days and Christmas and Easter services. In October the school also celebrates the life of its founder, St John Paul II, with a special liturgy. Class masses are on a rostered basis. All special events throughout the Catholic year are celebrated as a school community with a liturgy, along with celebrations for various other annual special events.

Bellerive Lindisfarne Parish offers a family-centred, parish-based, school-supported sacramental program, based on the RCIA model. These programs are usually run throughout second and third terms.

The school day begins with class prayer with the students regularly accepting responsibility for prayer time. Whole school prayer occurs weekly at gathering on a Monday. All staff are invited to pray together once a week during staff meeting.

The Sacramental Program for the 2023 year was successful, with strong numbers from John Paul II Catholic School joining the program.

### **Religious Education Curriculum**

Good News for Living, the Archdiocesan Religious Education guidelines, is the core document teachers at John Paul II use to develop their own understanding of their faith and pass this onto the children in their care. Unit outlines, which align with the Australian Curriculum, are used, and developed to suit the children's needs in our school community. The 'To Know, Worship and Love' resources are also used to support our Religious Education program.

Our Grade 6 students participate in the Making Jesus Real program and Grade 4 have been using the middle primary version ,The Spirit of Jesus, which is proving to be very successful. Catholic Education Week was a highlight of the southern regional calendar.



### Strategic Plan Overview

In 2020, we created the John Paul II Strategic Plan 2021-2023. 2023 has seen the plan come to its natural conclusion. As our Validation feedback acknowledges, we have made considerable progress. Our primary goal is that our school will be recognised as an excellent school for young boys and girls in Tasmania. One area the leadership team has focused on explicitly is our school narrative. That is, the story we tell ourselves about the school. We believe this has been

powerful in terms of our overall achievement. Please find below a summary of each area in our Strategic Plan.

### **1.1 Teaching and Learning: Implement a whole school literacy plan.**

- All teachers completed LETRS: Language essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling. This is quite an achievement given the length of the course. New staff have continued to complete this course.
- We have continued to train staff in the Orton-Gillingham method.
- We have implemented Initialit from Prep-Grade Two.
- We have implemented MiniLit Sage, PreLit (Kindergarten) and Macqlit.
- We have implemented Spelling Mastery from 3-6
- In 2024, we will implement Language Lift
- We have incorporated Insight teaching practices into our literacy program.
- We have continued to purchase resources and now have a very strong collection of decodable readers.
- We have invested heavily in new literature. Our borrowing rates have dramatically increased.
- We are building a new library.

### **1.2. Teaching and Learning: Create a new timetable to optimise learning.**

- Early in the Strategic Plan, we implemented a new timetable. Our new timetable has worked well overall, with students having an active start to the day. It has also meant students are present for key literacy teaching each morning.
- We have had to refine the supervision of some of our more vulnerable students during morning fitness time.

- We have had to change our structure slightly to incorporate the School Lunch Program.

### **1.3 Teaching & Learning: Expand Specialist Subjects**

- During the Strategic Plan we doubled our specialist subject allocation time.
- We now teach Music, Art, Physical Education, Chinese and Library. All our teachers have specialist degrees in their area.

### **1.4 Create an Instructional Model**

- The instructional model we have taken on is that of Insight, an evidence-based teaching and learning approach supported by the Catholic Education Office. 2023 has been the first year of the project. We will continue in 2024.

### **2.2 Character: Create character scope and sequence.**

- One of the areas that our teachers identified when creating the Strategic Plan was character development, in particular goal setting and attainment. We considered writing our own scope and sequence and explored commercial programs. As a staff, we have decided to implement the Positive Education Enhanced Curriculum (PEEC). PEEC is research-based explicit Positive Education curriculum that has been developmentally sequenced from Early Learning (age four) through to Year 12. The curriculum is built on ten years of experience with Positive Education at Geelong Grammar School. We have now taught PEEC for two years and will review it with staff.

- On a broader level, I have been pleased to see higher levels of attainment across the school, both in core areas. For example, this year we had winners in spelling contests, The National History Challenge, and the Eastern Shore Writing Showcase. This is an investment in Extension paying off.

### **2.3 Character: Strengthen Connection to Parish**

- We have formed excellent relationships with both Priests present in the Bellerive-Lindisfarne Parish during the plan, Father Richard Ross and Father Mark Freeman.
- Our Religious Education Coordinator Jane Davies has been a consistent and authentic leader in this space during the plan.
- It was pleasing to see the strength of our Sacramental numbers in 2023.

### **2.4 Strengthen connection to MacKillop**

- The percentage of students continuing onto MacKillop College has been increasing year on year, from a very low base. From current estimates 2025 looks to be the strongest in the last decade, which is positive.
- The collective uniform shop has been beneficial in promoting the connection between our two schools.
- We now have a MacKillop College Grade 6 Endeavour Award.
- We have buddy classes with Kinder and Grade 2.
- In 2024 we have some Grade 11 and 12 trainees working in at John Paul II.
- We are using our school bus to drive MacKillop students to some courses at other Catholic Colleges.
- We have started an Eastern Shore Cluster Band Program with MacKillop College.
- MacKillop students help at all our carnivals.

- This has been a very successful component of the plan.

### **3.1 Projects: School Building Masterplan**

- The Strategic Plan can be divided up into four main areas: the Early Learning Centre (ELC), the utility move, Emmaus and a new school library.
- The ELC improved the kindergarten play space dramatically and allowed John Paul II to launch the first Ludo school.
- The utility move moved our shed from the front of the school to behind the Church. This has been an aesthetically pleasing move as well as a very practical solution.
- Emmaus has transformed the school in a positive fashion, with the introduction of many new learning spaces and the school lunch program. Utilising the space for before and after school care has been highly successful. So much so that John Paul II will be able to offer Vacation Care for the first time in 2024.
- The building of the Library is underway and will make the very heart of the school a literature rich and inviting place in our community. We are very excited for this project to occur.

### **3.6 Implement Attendance Strategy**

- Our attendance has sat stubbornly between 88-89.5% during the entire Strategic Plan, despite a tremendous effort by leadership and the school Board to improve policies and processes. One positive is that we never saw the dramatic Covid drop off that many schools are still dealing with, so perhaps stagnant attendance was a good result in the context.

### **3.5 Uniform 'Smart Play' Update.**

- Yes, that was part of this Strategic Plan. It seems a lifetime ago that students were rocking the tartan trousers and white shirt! This has been a tremendous success. Overall, we have had very positive feedback about the transition and new families to the school love the uniform. It is always the case that some people prefer one type of trackpants to another. We can't win every battle, but we have won the war. I love seeing our students out in the playground being active and enjoying the John Paul II Catholic school uniform.

### **3.2 Marketing and Communication Masterplan**

One of the core elements of this Strategic Plan has been to improve our marketing and communication strategies. This is focused on our current parents and potential parents. This has included:

- Local advertising – signs, pamphlets, advertising at Glebe Hill and Childcare centres.
- The use of Enquiry Tracker and Feesable
- A new website
- The use of Google Analytics
- A Prospectus
- The production of a Kindergarten and Parent Handbook
- Internal communication materials.

As you have read, this Strategic Plan has been a significant one in the life of John Paul II Catholic School. We have achieved much, but there are still many areas in the school of which to improve. Our focus in 2024 will be the creation of a new Strategic Plan as continuous improvement is an important component of any school.

# Validation

John Paul II undertook Validation on Friday 30 August 2023. The commendations and recommendations are below:

## *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 JP II 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.

**Links:**

**School Profile:** <https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/40037>

**NAPLAN Results:**

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/40037/naplan/results>

**Finances:** <https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/40037/finances>

**School Staff:** <https://www.myschool.edu.au/school/40037>

All teachers are qualified as required by the Tasmanian Teachers Registration Board and hold a valid Working with Vulnerable People Registration.

As befits a learning organisation, the staff at John Paul II Catholic School has strong academic, vocational, and professional credentials. All staff engage in accreditation courses required by Catholic Education Tasmania, and many are continuing to undertake further university, TAFE, and other formal studies.

*This report was prepared by the Principal, March 2023.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Gill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brendan Gill

Principal