

# NATURE AND PURPOSE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

OF THE DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE



Inspired by the message and example of Jesus Christ, Catholic schools live out a distinctive educational vision. Supported by the Catholic community of which they are a vital part, they invite students and their families into a faith-filled educational experience.

As a key ministry of parishes and the diocese, Catholic schools encourage and support parents in their responsibility for the faith formation of their children. This formation is supported by prayer and opportunities to participate in the life, mission and liturgy of the broader Catholic community.

Catholic schools are part of a long tradition of Catholic education provided by religious and lay teachers in Australia and this diocese for over 180 years. They fulfil parents' rights to choose the schooling for their children which reflects their own values, beliefs and hopes.

#### Our schools commit to:

- nurturing each individual's growth in faith and unique potential
- offering outstanding educational experiences founded on Catholic values
- fostering partnership between parents and staff in the education of their children
- creating communities of respect for each other, the wider society and the earth
- encouraging active engagement in social justice issues, the service of others and the promotion of peace.

# Enrolling in a Catholic School

## DID YOU KNOW?

*Catholic schools are more than the providers of high quality education, advancing the common good of Australian society. Our schools are based on a distinctive educational vision inspired by the example and message of Jesus Christ.*



- Australian Catholic Schools currently educate one-fifth of the nations' children.
- Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle have been educating children for over 180 years
- Our Catholic schools are committed to providing exceptional educational experiences founded in the Catholic Ethos.
- Catholic schools strive to help students develop an understanding of the world, their community and their role in it.
- The Catholic school creates a supportive and challenging climate which affirms the dignity of all persons within the school community.
- A Catholic school is a community. We recognize the parents and family as primary educators and join with them to form a living community of shared visions.
- The Catholic school integrates thinking and believing in ways that encourage intellectual growth, nurture faith, and inspire action.
- Catholic Schools are a national asset and make a significant contribution to the social, cultural and economic life of the nation.
- Funding for Catholic schools comes from the Commonwealth and State governments and parents and parishes.
- Funding support has enabled Catholic schools to achieve national educational goals for young Australians.
- Catholic schools provide a quality educational option at a reasonable cost.
- Catholic schools working on behalf of the church in partnership with parents are open to all children and young people whose parents choose Catholic Schools.
- Catholic schools encourage partnership with parents, parishes, students and staff in a spirit of cooperation and mutual trust.
- Catholic schools are called to make a difference – to be places where the nurturing and development of the individual child is the core focus.

**Catholic schools exist not to be different but to make the difference!**

