St Bernard’s College

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS
2017 - 2021

ACIEVING EXCELLENCE BY LEARNING AND DOING
We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nations as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which St Bernard’s College stands.

We are inspired and nurtured by their wisdom, spirituality and experience. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside them for reconciliation and justice.
History

St Bernard’s College is a Catholic day school for boys in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

Edmund Rice founded the Christian Brothers, a religious order of men, in Waterford Ireland in 1802 to educate boys as a response to the social inequity of the times.

The College celebrates a heritage, which originated with its foundation by the Christian Brothers in 1940.

St Bernard’s College receives its educational mandate from the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne.

From its foundation, the College was governed by the Christian Brothers and is now under the governance of Edmund Rice Education Australia.

The College operates in accordance with the policies of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria and Edmund Rice Education Australia. The College Is a member of the Associated Catholic Colleges (ACC) Of Victoria.

The College motto, “Discere et Agere” (to learn and to do), informs a culture where learning is valued and its practical application expected.
Context

St Bernard’s College has built a strong community and a reputation for its commitment to ongoing improvement and excellence. The College will continue to be challenged by a range of external drivers in the changing global environment.

St Bernard’s boys will experience a changed world resulting from technological advances and extreme acceleration in the pace of change associated with communications. Many of the boys beginning at St Bernard’s College today will work in jobs that don’t yet exist. St Bernard’s will need to be agile to meet these challenges, positioning graduates to contribute meaningfully to the common good by giving them a well-rounded education in the moral and spiritual implications of changing modes of communication.

Another major shift in the global sphere is the increasing economic dominance of countries with cultures very different from Australia: intercultural understanding, adaptability, and creativity will become increasingly important.

St Bernard’s College is well placed to cope with these challenges, capitalising on the strength of the College community.
Values

As a Catholic school community, St Bernard’s College is committed to Gospel values that are central to all relationships within the College.

These values link the College, the home and the broader community of the Church and are expressed through the Charter for Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice Tradition.

Liberating Education

We open hearts and minds, through quality teaching and learning experiences, so that through critical reflection and engagement each person is hope-filled and free to build a better world for all.

Inclusive Community

Our community is accepting and welcoming, fostering right relationships and committed to the common good.

Gospel Spirituality

We invite all people into the story of Jesus and strive to make his message of compassion, justice and peace a living reality within our community.

Justice and Solidarity

We are committed to justice and peace for all, grounded in a spirituality of action and reflection that calls us to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalised and Earth itself.
Vision and Mission

St Bernard’s College contributes to a better world for all by educating to form the whole person, empowering each student to fulfil his life’s potential.

St Bernard’s College is a Catholic School for boys in the Edmund Rice tradition, pursuing excellence by learning and doing.
Strategic Priorities

St Bernard’s College community has set some strategic priorities to guide actions and initiatives in the coming years:

**Innovative**
Fostering a courageous learning community committed to excellence.

**Empowering**
Forming inclusive and compassionate young men.

**Holistic**
Educating and developing the whole person.

**Just**
Working towards a better world for all.
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