

SAINT MARY MACKILLOP COLLEGE ALBURY



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Truth – Beauty – Goodness

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1. Message from key school bodies

School Board

We recognise that parents are the primary educators of their children, with a right to choose schools for their children.

Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury aims to provide a choice of schooling to all those seeking an independent school providing instruction in the Catholic faith. We aim to prepare students both academically and spiritually to become people of virtue and strong character.

This is an exciting time for the school as we celebrate the twelfth year of the school. It is pleasing to see excellent academic results across all year levels due to the dedication and hard work of the staff and students. The school has come a long way since those first days and we embrace the challenges as it grows and develops.

Principal

While history may record the pandemic as the dominant influence of 2020, there may be other things that you will take away from this globally tumultuous year. How will you look back on 2020? I would like to recall two occasions this year that reflect upon the nature of our community.

In the first, Fr Murphy not too long ago recounted the story of St Mary MacKillop's mother Flora who, a month shy of her 70th birthday, was shipwrecked off the NSW South Coast and tragically drowned. After several days at sea, Flora's remains were retrieved by a cousin of Mary's, John MacDonald, who found Flora's body fully intact, seemingly miraculously so, when one considers the deleterious effects of sea, rocks and animals on the bodies of Flora's companions. Flora was still wearing her brown scapular when John found her. 20 years earlier in 1866, Mary would write to her mother, as she did frequently and with great affection: 'Tis useless my trying to explain what I feel, but I think God can make us very happy even in this world, that is, when He gives us opportunities of suffering for Him. What to worldly eyes appear great crosses should be to us great blessings, and even prized as such'.

I rejoice at the foresight of claiming St Mary MacKillop as patron of our school. Her pleas on our behalf must surely be heard in the throne room of the King. And yet, I sense that we are still at the cusp of appreciating St Mary's zeal, educational vision and holy devotion.

The second occasion I would like to recall is my happening upon a small group of mums who pray the Rosary onsite each week. Their weekly devotion, of which we are all beneficiaries, reminds me of the countless acts of generosity that are done often in secret and without fanfare. As Our Lord says, the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing.

If ever I feel troubled by something, I know that the antidote is just outside my office in the smiling faces of your children. To the parents, thank you for the privilege of supporting you, the first educators and heralds of the faith to your children. Each year and, indeed, each day, the teaching and support staff renew our pledge to make this College a sanctuary of faith and excellence.

2. Contextual Information about the school

Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury is a small, caring school in a rural setting. It is an independent school providing instruction in the Catholic faith for students from Kinder to Year 12, with a strong emphasis on character formation through the virtues. The lives of the saints feature in the day-to-day life of the school, as does the celebration of special feast days from the Catholic calendar.

The educational aim of the school is the critical communication of Catholic culture and the total development of the individual. The School motto is Verum, Pulchrum et Bonum (Truth, Beauty and Goodness). As Catholics we believe that we live in a universe created by a loving God. Everything in the cosmos bears the stamp of the Creator – it is true, beautiful and good. Education is about encouraging our students to develop by seeking out truth, beauty and goodness in all that they do.

Saint Mary MacKillop College was founded in the small rural community of Jindera in 2009 and year levels were gradually added until the first Year 12 Class graduated in 2014. Saint Mary MacKillop College currently has students in all year levels from Kinder to Year 12.

The school recognises parents as the first educators of their children and works to support them in their vital role. Each term the school runs a parent evening which often includes a guest speaker to speak on topics such as parenting or an aspect of the Catholic faith. Saint Mary MacKillop College also takes an active part in ANZAC Day, Australia Day and Christmas events in the local community.

Secondary students visit the Greater Hume Aged Care Facility on a weekly basis as part of community service as well as fundraise annually for a worthwhile charity.

With the help of parents, we run two major fundraisers each year, namely the Saint Mary MacKillop Gala Dinner and our annual school fete.

3. **Student performance in national and statewide tests and examinations**

The College was unable to participate in the National Assessment Plan, Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) testing in 2020 due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

4. **Senior secondary outcomes (student achievement)**

In 2020 Saint Mary MacKillop College had seven Year 12 Students successfully complete their studies and graduate.

5. **Professional Learning and Teacher Standards**

All teachers at Saint Mary MacKillop College in 2020 met the standards required by the NSW Institute of Teachers.

Category	Number of Teachers
Staff who have teacher education qualifications from a higher education institution within Australia or as recognised within the AEI-NOOSR guidelines.	22
Staff who have a bachelor degree from a higher education institution within Australia or one recognised within the AEI-NOOSR guidelines but lack formal teacher education qualifications.	1

6. **Professional Learning Activities**

- Obligations in Identifying and Responding to Children and Young People – *Online course provided by AISNSW*
- Child Protection Training – *Provided by AISNSW*
- First Aid Training – *Provided by St John Ambulance Australia*
- Disability and NCCD Training – *Provided by AISNSW*
- LEM Phonics Curriculum Training – *Provided by Light Education Ministries*
- Clarity Leadership Workshop (by Lyn Sharratt) – *Provided by ACEL*

7. **Workforce Composition**

The staff at Saint Mary MacKillop College is made up of nine male and fourteen female teaching staff, three female and one male classroom support staff, two female administration officers, one female lab assistant and two female extracurricular assistants.

School Staff 2020	
Teaching Staff	23
Full Time equivalent teaching staff	11
Non-teaching staff	9
Full-time equivalent non-teaching staff	2

8. **Student Attendance Rates**

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) have not published 2020 STATS Attendance Data due to inconsistencies as a result of the varying health advice and schooling arrangements across the country in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

9. **Post school destinations (secondary schools only)**

In 2020 Saint Mary MacKillop College had seven Year 12 Students graduate. Of those students, four have gone onto tertiary studies, and three are working.

In 2020 we had nine Year 11 students of which all continued onto Year 12 Studies at SMMC.

In 2020 we had twelve Year 10 students and all continued their Year 11 Studies at SMMC.

10. **Enrolment policies and characteristics of the student body**

As a private school with a Catholic ethos, Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury has an evangelising mission. A distinguishing feature of Catholic education is that it is open to all, especially to the poor and weakest in society. The School exists primarily to assist parents in their duty to instil the Catholic faith in their children.

Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury aims to provide a choice of schooling to all those seeking a Catholic education for their children. However, enrolment of a student into the school cannot be guaranteed.

Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury has a particular responsibility to welcome, accept and support those who are poor, marginalised and in most need. Our conviction is that no student will be refused enrolment or be disadvantaged because of an inability on the part of parents/guardians to meet financial requirements.

Enrolment Policy

Preamble:

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Policy:

1.0 Principles

Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury aims to provide a choice of schooling to all those seeking a Catholic education for their children. However, enrolment of a student into the school cannot be guaranteed. Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury has a particular responsibility to welcome, accept and support those who are poor, marginalised and in most need. Our conviction is that no student will be refused enrolment or be disadvantaged because of an inability on the part of parents/guardians to meet financial requirements.

1.1 Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury strives to be authentically Catholic and faithful to the Church, its traditions and teachings.

1.2 The school is a community whose mission is to provide its members with an holistic education which takes place in an environment formed by the authentic teachings and values of the Catholic Church.

1.3 The school community strives for strong partnerships with the parishes it serves. These partnerships must be demonstrated and strengthened by the enrolment procedure and practice.

1.4 Those who choose this school for their children do so on the understanding that they respect and agree to support the Catholic identity of the school and acknowledge the importance of religious

education for their children. As a minimum requirement, parents accept a commitment to observe the precepts of the Church regarding the obligation to attend Mass every Sunday.

1.5 Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury are open to all who are willing to commit to support the philosophy, values and aims of Catholic schooling.

2.0 Responsibility

2.1 The Directors, in collaboration with the Pastor, Principal, staff and School Council have responsibility for ensuring that the authentic vision of Catholic education in the community remains the guiding principle in the application of the enrolment policy.

2.2 The Principal is responsible for enrolments. The Principal may form an enrolment committee to provide advice. Ordinarily, the Committee will comprise the Priest/Chaplain (or his representative) and a representative of the School Council as members. The Principal will chair the Committee.

3.0 Enrolment Policies

3.1 General

3.1.1 At initial enrolment, all parents must give a firm undertaking that they will accept and support during the period of their child's enrolment the life, nature and identity of the Catholic school, including the appropriate participation of their children in the approved religious education programs, and their own participation in key parent events.

3.1.2 No child is to be denied Catholic schooling simply because of an inability (as opposed to an unwillingness) of a parent/guardian, to meet financial requirements.

3.1.3 The attention of parents/guardians is drawn to the fact that acceptance of their children into the school does not confer an automatic entitlement to re-enrolment for the following year.

3.1.4 Enrolment applications received after the due date will only be considered if vacancies still exist, irrespective of where they might otherwise be placed in the priority order.

3.1.5 The Directors may authorise the refusal of an enrolment into the school if such enrolment would adversely impact on the provision of Catholic education

3.2 Enrolment Categories

3.2.1 Kindergarten Enrolments.

It is generally desirable for schools to adopt a cut-off enrolment date whereby children commencing in Kindergarten should be five (5) years of age by 30 April of the year of enrolment.

3.2.2 Early Age Enrolments

3.2.2.1 The Principal has the discretion to process an early age enrolment (Primary or accelerated Secondary school entry) if special circumstances exist.

3.2.2.2 Before agreeing to the early enrolment of the child the Principal must seek written approval from the Director.

3.2.2.3 The Principal must inform the child's parents of this consultation process at the time of the enrolment application.

3.2.3 Students with Disabilities

3.2.3.1 Principals must refer to the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) which can be located at

<http://ceo.cg.catholic.edu.au/policies/disability.htm>

3.2.3.2 When processing enrolment applications from parents/guardians of students with disabilities who seek to be included in regular classes within the school, Principals must seek advice from relevant staff at AISNSW for Special Needs Education. Each application is to be handled individually.

3.2.5 Conditional Enrolment

The Principal may, in discussion with the student, parents, pastor, and staff, enrol a student on a conditional basis in light of the student's particular situation and/or needs at the time of or during the student's enrolment.

4.0 Parent Responsibilities

4.1 All parents enrolling their children in the school must complete the official enrolment form and return it by the due date. The family of these children MUST provide an up to date reference from their Parish Priest indicating that they are practising Catholics in that Parish. Such action, however, does not guarantee enrolment in the school.

4.2 Applications, irrespective of their priority listing, received after the due date will only be considered if vacancies still exist.

4.3 Parents must be prepared to abide by the provisions specified in the enrolment form especially as regards the support they will give the school in the Catholic education of their children and the attendance of scheduled key parent events.

4.4 The child's parents/guardians must recognise and be prepared to meet their financial responsibilities for the ongoing enrolment of the child subject to section 3.1.2. of this policy document.

4.5 The child's parent/guardian must advise the Principal of any Court Order(s) that may exist in regard to the child and MUST provide a certified copy of the Order(s) for the child's school file.

5.0 ENROLMENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

5.1 The School Council will monitor enrolment information submitted by the school and action taken by the school to ensure the Catholicity of the school and the basic aims of Catholic education are maintained.

10. **Description of the Student Population**

Student Body 2020	
Male	74
Female	85
LOTE	6%
Total	159

For further details visit the myschool website: <http://www.myschool.edu.au>

11. **School Policies**

Student Welfare

In accord with the principles of the Gospel and of the teachings of the Catholic Church, our school regards the safety of its students – not just physically and emotionally, but spiritually and morally – as integral to their full development as children of God and members of Christ’s body.

Student Discipline

The College does not sanction the administering of corporal punishment by non-school persons, including parents, to enforce discipline at the school.

Saint Mary MacKillop College recognises that self-discipline is intrinsic to the Christian life, and that the true order willed for us by God can only be achieved when our lives are ruled by reason and enlightened by Faith. To this end, we guide and assist our students to understand the meaning of true freedom and goodness and to strive for it individually and collectively.

Complaints and Grievances

The School aims to provide an environment for student and parents conducive to open and honest communication. It is our desire to facilitate an atmosphere of trust and co-operation.

There is a formal process for handling complaints and grievances. The school policy for handling complaints and grievances is on our website.

A person is not to be disadvantaged or discriminated against in any way for filing a complaint. As a matter of principle, anonymously filed complaints will not be processed.

12. **School determined improvement targets**

- To consolidate academic programmes in place across all stages of the curriculum.
- To get relevant professional development to assist with implementation of new syllabuses for the NSW Curriculum.
- The improvement of literacy outcomes for students identified as needing additional learning support. Indicators of success in literacy outcomes for these students are gauged by NAPLAN literacy results and standardized tests.
- Targeting students with additional learning needs to ensure they get the necessary support.
- The improvement of teaching expertise through individualised professional development. Professional Development was provided in house, off campus, online as well as through the AISNSW

13. **Initiatives promoting respect and responsibility**

The school promoted respect and responsibility amongst students by their participation in:

- Specific assigned responsibilities such as gardening, flying flags, bin duty, library monitoring and prefect duties
- Student presentations at school assemblies
- Weekly school Mass
- Attendance at College Presentation Night
- Student assistance at school working bees
- Implementation of school rules that have as their overarching areas Respect Ourselves, Respect Others and Respect our Environment

Unfortunately, due to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, student participation in community and sporting events was greatly reduced in 2020.

14. Parent, student and teacher satisfaction

As at the 2020 Census date, Saint Mary MacKillop College Albury had 159 full time students enrolled.

Our school community consisted of 49 families and 23 teaching staff including part-time and full-time.

In 2020 an online survey was made available to students, parents and staff to give some feedback on the year at SMMC. Specific questions were formulated for each of the areas and opportunities given for general feedback also.

The **students** were asked to rate their school in the following 2 categories:

- Learning and Teaching
- Wellbeing

Overall students were positive about their experiences at the College.

Parents were asked to rate their satisfaction of the school in 3 areas:

- > Learning and Teaching
- > Student Wellbeing
- > Communication

Survey results showed that overall our parent community is satisfied with what is happening in all of these areas.

Teaching staff were asked to rate their work environment in the following 6 areas:

- > School Culture
- > Leadership
- > Learning and Teaching
- > Student Wellbeing
- > Communication
- > Professional Development

Survey results showed that the majority of teachers were positive about their work environment in each of the categories.

15. Summary 2020 Financial Information

Financial data available on www.myschool.edu.nsw.au

