



St Bede's Catholic College

Mission Statement

St Bede's Catholic College is committed to the principles of Catholic education and academic excellence, as envisioned by our namesake, Saint Bede, and enriched by the Lasallian tradition of faith, service and community inspired by Saint John Baptist de La Salle. Our core mission is to ensure that each child is challenged and given every opportunity to flourish and grow spiritually, academically and socially within a Christian environment, founded on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Everything we do has its foundation in love, in the belief that every young person is created in the image and likeness of God and deserves to be known, valued and nurtured. We seek to encourage all in our community to partner with God so as to walk in newness of life, recognising the presence of God in one another and striving together as a faith-filled learning community.

We aim to:

- Enrich students' understanding of the Catholic faith and cultivate respect and understanding for other religious traditions. Prayer, worship and reflection are central to college life, helping all members of the community grow in faith and compassion.
- Create an environment that is warm and welcoming, well-ordered and disciplined, reflecting the mutual trust and respect between staff and students where each person is recognised as an individual, valued and enabled to fulfil their potential to the highest possible standard. In the Lasallian spirit, we strive to ensure that no young person is overlooked and that all feel a strong sense of belonging.
- Provide a full and comprehensive curriculum for all students to enable them to develop their full potential in all areas of college life: spiritual, intellectual, physical, creative, moral and social, encouraging a love of learning and a commitment to personal excellence.
- Give students a unique experience that will prepare them for the future and last a lifetime, forming young people who are compassionate, resilient, responsible and committed to serving others.
- Promote a spirit of collaboration and co-operation, recognising that all staff have a contribution to make to the college. All teachers and support staff must be valued and treated with respect, acknowledging education as a shared vocation and ministry.
- Develop strong relationships with our students and their families, recognising parents and carers as the first educators of their children and partners in their journey of growth and formation.
- Reflect the principles of equal opportunity for all in our structures, curriculum, values and policies, affirming the dignity and worth of every member of the community.
- Inspire students to be good stewards of the earth, to conserve and protect God's creation and the earth's resources, acting with responsibility and care for our common home.
- Have a transformational impact on the individual, giving them confidence that they can make a difference in the world through leadership, compassion, justice and service.

Everything that we do at St Bede's is built on the firm foundation of the person, teachings and values of Jesus Christ as found in the Gospels. The school experience of every child at St Bede's is firmly grounded in these values and in the Lasallian commitment to faith, community and service.

Every student at St Bede's will be encouraged to:

- be fuelled with positivity and be aware of their potential:
"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice... I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4: 4, 13)
- have a positive mindset, to show a willingness to try their hardest in any endeavour and to trust in their own God-given potential. Our sixth form is called Arete, meaning "be the best you can be", reflecting our belief that every student is called to grow, achieve and use their gifts in the service of others.
- be a person of hope:
"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

At the core of our vision, "In Newness of Life", stands the ideal of hope. Young people at St Bede's are encouraged to believe in the power of hope, so that in any difficulty they may face in life, they can rely on the joy and peace that comes through faith, community and trust in God.

Be proud and confident in their own identity:

"No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar, but on the lampstand so that those who enter may see the light... If then your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be as full of light as when a lamp gives you light with its rays." (Luke 11: 33, 36)

Understanding identity is an integral part of a young person's experience. At St Bede's young people are reminded that we are all beautifully and wonderfully made in God's image. Each student's individuality is celebrated and respected, and students are encouraged to share their gifts, talents and identities confidently within a caring and inclusive community.

As part of the mission of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Clifton to educate young people, we see our task as a shared endeavour; a partnership between college, home and parish, working together for the benefit of all students at St Bede's. Inspired by the Lasallian vision of education in community, we aim to harmonise faith and culture, build a better society and pursue the Common Good by:

- Fostering links with our local community, families and parish in order to prepare our students for the opportunities and challenges of adult life.
- Recognising effort, personal development, academic achievement and students' contribution to college and community life.
- Preparing our students to gain from the opportunities, responsibilities and challenges of an ever-changing secular society, encouraging them to become compassionate leaders, active citizens and people of integrity who work for justice and peace.