

**St Anthony's School**  
**School Performance**  
**Report 2023**

**&**

**2023-2027 Strategic Plan**

**This Report meets the school's responsibility in reporting information to parents on its  
2023 performance (Australian Education Act 2013).**

**Principal Report – 2023**

Somehow we have blinked and its December again.... We were only sitting here yesterday – it feels like celebrating last year's Carols night. Tonight is a special moment where we gather to celebrate the gift of all that has happened in 2023. Our students share their talents and joy through song and dance. We have already celebrated and presented the special Yr 6 awards, we will later extend our appreciation and goodbyes to the leaving staff and present and extend our community farewell to our graduating Yr. 6 students.

On Sunday we entered into the Liturgical Season of Advent – our time of preparation for the joyous news of Christmas – that Christ is among us. At Mass on Sunday, the second reading came from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.... Paul writes to the early Christian community of Corinth.... Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and then St Paul expresses his deep admiration for the community through the statement, I give thanks to my God always on your account...

Well, tonight I would like to steal these words for St Paul and express them in 2023 to the St Anthony's community as I say thank you and give thanks...

Thank you to our Parish Community who offer their prayers and warm hellos as they pass by each morning on their way to Mass. Thank you to Fr Phil for his wisdom, care, and dedication to our community. We look forward to enacting a new Archdiocese document and celebrate how we are Church together and continue to find ways of living out as Parish and School in our shared ministry of love.

Thank you - to you, our community. I again want to highlight and thank over 60 volunteers who we celebrated today on the International Day of Volunteers with certificates. Hash-tag – we can't do it without you. Thanks to our excursion guides, disco dancers, committee members, Ant hill messengers, OMG have you ordered that reminders, pizza cutters, athletic marshals, swimming time-keepers, and camper helpers – even when it required jumping into the duck poo pond to support a student. Thank you for your time, support, wisdom, and dedication to our community that provides so much to enrich our community and especially the opportunities we can provide our students.

To each of our families, mum, dad, grandma, grandpa, uncles, aunties, friends, and neighbors – thank you for the countless ways you support and work in partnership with us. Thank you for the gift of your children who we are so privileged to nurture, guide, teach and be in awe of each and every day. Each year as a part of our transition, I have the opportunity to chat with and welcome our new families.

Most times I read a small reflection called Two Sculptors...

*I dreamed I saw a studio  
And watched two sculptors there.  
The clay they used was a child's mind  
And they fashioned it with care.  
One was a teacher – the tools they used  
Were books, music, and art.  
The other; a parent, worked with a guiding hand,  
And a gentle, loving heart.  
The poem finishes...  
And when at last, their task was done,  
They were proud of what they had wrought.  
For the things they had molded into the child  
Could neither be sold or bought.  
And each agreed they would have failed  
If either had worked alone.  
For behind the parent stood the school  
And behind the teacher, the home.*

*Thankyou for the countless ways you stand with us as we work together... we can't do it  
without you....*

To the amazing staff of St Anthony's – thank you for your dedication, humor and joy, support, and professional pursuit of excellence. For finding countless coloring in sheets thank you, for locating that book and getting that crazy just dance-on in the library thanks, for the band-aids or helping out on yard duty – thank you.... For support, guidance, and care of students – thanks. For designing learning adventures that capture heads, hearts and hands – thank you. For doing that task before I have even worked out it was needed to be done – thanks. For supporting each other through food, helping out, and most importantly laughs – thank you. Mr. Baker has worked for 30 years this year in Catholic Education and I have had the blessings of working with many amazing people and this staff ranks right up there in how they inspire me to serve and lead.

Lastly thank you to our students who enrich, bless, and inspire us each and every day. Thankyou for living out our 5Ls which we proclaim each day as a part of our heart prayer....

For being

Leaders – who jump in and help out, by running library clubs, and picking up equipment without being asked, for helping our school be green, for helping fellow students, for being examples of brilliance. Thank you. For leading mentoring moments or guiding a reception student back to class. For being the best person you can be and allowing others to do the same. Thanks

For being

Listeners – who show care and respect to all members of our community, for meeting each week in mentoring, helping as reading buddies, taking time to stop and be still in morning prayer, or a smiling minds reflective activity, offering respect and listening to

fellow classmates or Mr Baker rabbiting on about something on the microphone. Thankyou for listening to the cries of the poor through our fundraising activities and ecological actions during September – the season of creation.

For being

Learners – who aspire for excellence and “fill the page” as a wise Yr 1 told me, who publish books, make models of the Adelaide Oval bigger than the Adelaide oval, for asking amazing questions at the high court – even when Mr. Baker had had enough and wanted to go... for filling in excursion booklets, designing Science week experiments, for making and building during early years investigations that fill the room.

For reaching black belts in Japanese, for accomplishing that dance move for the concert, for pen licenses, for learning to make the sign of the cross or reference scripture text correctly. For being determined to do better, seek feedback and grow –  
thankyou.

For being

Lovers – who offer a handshake of good luck to a student from another school as we get ready to race them at the athletics carnival, For giving high 5s to younger siblings who hasn't started at our school yet, for letting little ones join in a morning game of volleyball. For running up and saying hello and asking how I am. For greeting each day with a smile and allowing us to share in your joys and struggles.

For being

Laughers – who dress up for book week, PJ Day, Wear your colours day, purple day, who share a song and dance on the stage of the Capri theatre, for being gracious losers during a staff vs student volleyball game. For helping Mr Baker when he was attached by elf on the shelf or allowing me to come into class and totally disturb your learning, have a laugh and then ensure you re-focus. For being amazing young people of joy in all you do....

St Paul finishes his letter to the Corinthians by saying - I never stop thanking God for you. I always remember you in my prayers. You St Anthony's – Parish, Community, Families, Staff and Students are always in my prayers and I will never stop thanking God for the privilege and honour it is to be a part of this community.

Thank you for 2023 – may the approaching festive & holiday season bless each and everyone of you and provide you with rest and relaxation – ready for an amazing 2024.

## **A Dominican Blessing**

*May God the Father bless you*

*May God the Son support you*

*May God the Holy Spirit enlighten you and give you eyes to see goodness with ears to hear the cries for justice and peace, hands to do the work of God with, feet to walk in the way of love, a mouth to preach the words of truth*

*Amen*

## CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION

St Anthony's School is situated in the inner southern suburb of Edwardstown. It was opened in 1930 by the Dominican Sisters, welcoming families from the local community. St Anthony's is committed to maintaining links with its founding sisters and their charism of welcoming all to our community. We strive to keep their motto, Veritas (Truth) at the core of our vision; *Growing in Faith - Building Knowledge - Working for Justice*.

The vision of St Anthony's School is to be a place where learners are inspired to be creative, take risks, inquire and build their social, emotional, spiritual, physical and intellectual capabilities. The values by which we live are: We Learn, We Love, We Listen, We Laugh and We Lead

We are a learning community where children develop skills and competencies that will enable them to thrive and succeed in life and in doing so become leaders working for the common good.

Our educational vision is based on the following teaching and learning pedagogy:

Authentic

Authentic learning involves real life problem-solving activities allowing multiple perspectives and ways of learning, it challenges and engages learning.

Creative

Creative learning enhances originality, innovation and imagination in both teaching and learning.

Reflective

Reflective practice involves critical thinking, being open to change and an emphasis on reviewing to improve.

Collaborative

A collaborative environment involves working together to achieve a common goal, where accountability and equity are shared.

We offer flexible learning spaces that provide excellent learning opportunities with contemporary pedagogies and digital technologies. Specialist programs including Music, Japanese and Physical Education. The school has a vibrant OSHC facility (that offers Vacation Care). We employ a Chaplain to enhance our Catholic Identity and support children and familie wellbeing. Our Inclusive Education Coordinator works with staff, children and families to accommodate children with special needs. Whole school celebrations include St Anthony's Feast Day, Sports Day, Book Week and Purple Day. A strong focus on Outdoor learning is supported through the physical structures of our spaces, including a purpose-built nature play area, Butterfly garden and Veggie / Garden Patches.

## TEACHER STANDARDS AND QUALIFICATIONS AT ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL

In our school, we are very fortunate to have teachers committed to lifelong learning. The breakdown of the qualifications of the teaching and education support staff is:

☒ Masters Degree	2
☒ Bachelor Degree	12

All staff are supported in working towards their goals, including access to high quality professional learning.

Staff are committed to professional learning and embrace the notion of continuous improvement.

Our whole school staff participated in several professional learning opportunities on Pupil Free Days and during Staff Meetings. These included:

- Effective Use of Data
- Lyn Sharratt – Clarity
- Religious Education – The Mass
- Writing
- Digital Technologies
- Ecological Awareness & Action
- Work Health Safety training

All teaching staff have a set of documented and regularly reviewed goals and are supported in working towards their goals through access to high quality professional learning.

## WORKFORCE COMPOSITION

For 2022, there were 9.0 FTE teaching staff members and our total teaching staff numbers were 14 (made up of 10 females and 4 male teachers). Our staff attendance rate for 2023 was 92%.

There were 21 non-teaching staff members (4 male and 17 females) employed which included 8.3 FTE. These included our Out of School Hours Care Program and we had 5 instrumental tutors working in our Instrumental Program every week.

## KEY STUDENT OUTCOMES

### 1. STUDENT ATTENDANCE

The total number of student enrolments in 2022 was 140. The average student attendance rate for our school in 2023 was:

2023 Attendance Data				
YEAR LEVEL	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3	TERM 4
Reception	95.57%	92.58%	92.26%	96.10%
Year 1	94.30%	95.85%	92.33%	95.59%
Year 2	95.10%	95.04%	90.97%	97.15%
Year 3	95.16%	96.02%	89.22%	93.33%
Year 4	95.57%	93.06%	85.50%	93.04%
Year 5	96.15%	94.19%	88.22%	94.56%
Year 6	95.31%	94.06%	89.17%	93.62%

The percentage of Indigenous enrolments was 2.18% and the percentage of students with disabilities was 17%.

It is an expectation that parents inform the school when their child is absent from school by telephoning between 8.30am and 9:00am, and sending the class teacher a note explaining the absence on the student's return. School attendance is monitored by classroom teachers and absences are recorded daily on our student system ceSIS, and reports are produced each term. In the event that a high level of unexplained absences is recorded, the parent/caregiver is notified and the class teacher informed accordingly. Should this continue without any explanation, then a member of the Leadership Team is contacted and the school will inform Child Abuse Report Line (CARL).

## **2. STUDENT OUTCOMES IN STANDARDISED NATIONAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY (NAPLAN) TESTING AT ST ANTHONY'S SCHOOL IN 2023**

One hundred percent (100%) of the Year 3 & 5 students achieved the National Minimum stand in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Grammar & Punctuation and Numeracy.

Analyzing the NAPLAN results show consistent improvement in all areas of the NAPLAN test. The curriculum areas that showed the greatest improvement were Numeracy and Spelling. We continue to focus on Writing as an area for improvement.

Teachers analyze the NAPLAN data and compare the scores to the PAT Math & PAT Reading tests performed by students Term 4. This will assist the staff in identifying areas where student support is required.

### **NAPLAN REPORT SUMMARY**

	<b>Year 3 National</b>	<b>Year 3 St Anthony</b>	<b>Year 5 National</b>	<b>Year 5 St Anthony</b>
<b>Reading</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>512</b>
<b>Writing</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>472</b>
<b>Spelling</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>427</b>
<b>Grammar</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>493</b>
<b>Numeracy</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>473</b>



St Anthony's School offers many educational experiences and celebrations throughout the year that provide special opportunities for its students, staff and wider community. These include:

- **Our Catholic Culture:** Throughout the year, Masses, Prayer Services, and Whole School Mission Efforts were hosted by class groups and communities. All were done in consultation with the APRIM (Assistant Principal – Religious Identity and Mission). Fr Phillip is our Parish Priest and he is the President of our School Board.
- **Mission Efforts:** Every term, there is a whole school Mission Effort for a Social Justice initiative. These include Caritas, St Vincent De Paul, Soup Group for Hutt Street, Catholic Charities and Catholic Missions.
- **St Anthony's Feast Day:** Our annual celebration gives us the opportunity to celebrate our Patron Saint's day with a Whole School Mass.

St Anthony's offered the following programs for the benefit of the students in our care:

- **Inclusive Education Program:** funded support for students with identifiable learning disabilities.
- **Out of School Hours Care Program (OSHC):** a nationally accredited service providing before and after school care for approximately 50 students. Our Program is operated by qualified staff and is opened for Vacation Care every school break. We continue to be recognised with an Exceeding Rating.
- **Premier's Reading Challenge:** in 2023, another very successful year for our school whereby almost 95% of students were involved in the program, which was recognised with St Anthony's being presented with an award from the state Premier.
- **Green Club:** students from different year levels work with the groundsman in maintaining the different gardens around the school.
- **Music Tuition:** students are able to learn a variety of instruments with trained musicians in purpose build instrumental rooms
- **Out of school sport:** students are able to participate in many sports out of school hours through the coordination of the Sport teacher and generosity of parent volunteers

### **Music Program:**

The fundamental part of the Music Program at St Anthony's comprised of weekly 60 minute class music lessons. Throughout the year, all students were involved in a wide range of musical activities including singing, playing instruments, moving, and listening, reading and composing music.

Many students were also involved in elective music groups, which rehearsed and performed during the year. These included:

- **Festival Choir:** The choir trained throughout the first three terms to perform at the Catholic Schools Music Festival in September at the Entertainment Centre
- **The Private Instrumental Program:** involving 6 tutors, continued with about 38 students participating each week. It involved a wide range of instruments including piano, guitar, voice, drums, and violin.

## 2023 Sports and Physical Activity Opportunities:

Physical activity opportunities for students at St Anthony's School are a significant part of encouraging fun, positive experiences to promote lifelong physical activity for our students. In addition to their Physical Education lessons, the students have opportunities to participate in a number of in-school time sporting events and carnivals. St Anthony's School is a member and supporter of the South Australian Primary Schools Amateur Sports Association (SAPSASA), the South Australian Catholic Primary School Sports Association (SACSPSA) and the Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER SA).

2023 events included;

- Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival (Boys & Girls Year 3-6)
- Catholic Athletics Carnival (Boys & Girls Year 3-6)
- Catholic Netball Carnival (Boys and Girls Year 3-6 teams)
- Catholic Schools Cross Country (Boys & Girls Year 3-6)
- Catholic Touch Football Carnival (Boys & Girls Year 3-6 teams)

In-school sporting promotional events included:

- West Adelaide Football Club (Year 2 and Year 5 classes)
- SA Cricket 'In2Cricket' clinics (Reception-1 and Year 3-4)
- PE Week – Various Activities – skipping, Zumba, Staff vs Student Basketball Game, student led activities
- Gymnastics Program
- Yr 3-6 Karate Sessions
- Yr 4 Tennis Day
- SEDA College Coaching – Netball, Cricket, Basketball, AFL

At St Anthony's School, we offer a wide range of After School Sports to suit varying skill levels. Players rely on the generosity of our parents who become registered volunteers in order to coach these teams.

Students in **Years Two to Year Six** can be involved in the following:

- Basketball (Year 2-6)
- Netball (Years 2-6)
- Cricket (Years 4-5)
- Kanga Cricket (Years 2 and 3)
- AFL (Years 2-6)
- Soccer (Years 2-6)

Students in **Reception to Year 2** can be involved in the following at local centres

- Auskick
- T-Ball

## **Japanese Program:**

Term One was devoted to getting to know students, staff and the school. This linked in well with the Semester 1 Japanese program, as students in all year levels practiced greetings and self-introductions, ranging from simply saying 'hello' and 'good bye' in reception to being able to answer simple questions about themselves in Year 5.

Students explored Japanese culture through making Daruma dolls and koinobori (carp kites) and other craft activities centered around 'Kodomo no hi' (Children's Day). They also practiced counting and following classroom instructions in Japanese.

All students had a chance to demonstrate what they had learnt in Japanese in one to one interviews in term 2. Years 4 and 5 students were given the extra challenge of having a short conversation in Japanese, answering the questions "How are you? What is your name?" and "How old are you?".

**Term 3** marked the beginning of a new Semester and new topics for all year level groups.

In Reception/ Year 1, we welcomed the new students, revised some basic greetings from Semester 1 and began learning about animals and colours. Students in 2/3 classes worked hard to learn the names and colours of the animals from the story "Brown Bear". Students in some classes were also introduced to Japanese Summer Festivals and made paper lanterns.

Year 4/5 students began a topic on "what's in my school bag?" naming stationary items we use at school and asking each other politely for objects in the classroom. To tie in with the Year of Mercy, students in Years 4/5 also examined the kanji (Japanese characters) for the words 'mercy' and 'peace' and created lanterns with these words written in Japanese.

Reception/ year 1 students practiced their song to share at the Japanese Cultural afternoon. Students in Years 2/3 finished their animal and colour flip books and demonstrating their knowledge through individual aural assessments.

Year 4/5 students completed their mini "What's in my bag" story books, writing all the target vocabulary in Japanese. Their final task being to read their books to me individually. It was positive to see that students understood the language for classroom objects in Japanese, so more target language can now be used in class.

The year ended with a wonderful celebration, our first Japanese Cultural afternoon. All classes enjoyed playing some Japanese games and activities and some classes demonstrated what they had learned throughout the year at the Japanese/Drama assembly. It was wonderful to see how the community embraced this event, with many families making the effort to bring Japanese themed 'bentos' or lunch boxes and dress in Japanese colours and clothing. The hope is that this will become a regular event on the St Anthony's school.

## PARENT, STUDENT AND TEACHER SATISFACTION WITH THE SCHOOL

- Parents, staff and students were involved the LLL Surveys which gives us information about how we perform as a Catholic School (Catholic Ethos), the teaching and learning programs we currently offer, opportunities for students to grow and develop, communication strategies used to relay information to you, and facilities utilised to deliver a quality education. Every parent, student and staff member had the opportunity to engage in this process towards the end of the school year.

Summary of staff strengths were

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| 1. They can see that the school gives witness to Catholic Social Teaching  | 100%   |
| 2. They have opportunities to grow in their faith development              | 94.74% |
| 3. They are kept informed about decisions that affect their roles          | 88.42% |
| 4. They have clear understanding of St Anthony's vision and values         | 94.74% |
| 5. They feel that their professional development as a teacher is supported | 72.22% |

Summary of the parents' strengths were:

- They can see that St Anthony's is a Catholic School  
96.78%
- They believe that at St Anthony's there is a strong sense of belonging  
96.77%
- They are kept informed about their child's progress  
83.87%
- St Anthony's works collaboratively with them to foster a learning & vibrant community  
71.62%
- They feel comfortable about approaching staff about their child  
93.55%
- Student behaviour is managed well  
74.20%

Summary of students' strengths were:

- They can see that St Anthony's is a Catholic School  
100%
- They feel their learning is improving  
85.72%
- They feel safe and happy at St Anthony's  
76.20%
- The School listens to their ideas  
85.71%
- They are given opportunities to be leaders  
85.72%
- They are given the opportunity to participate in things that they enjoy doing  
71.48%

<b>SCHOOL FINANCES</b>
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**INCOME**

Federal Government Grants	1,606,165
State Government	417,644
Tuition Fees	340,177
Other Income	274,478
(includes Levies, other charges)	

**TOTAL INCOME****2,638,464****EXPENSES****2,448,873**

***St Anthony's School  
Edwardstown***



***Growing in faith  
Building knowledge  
Working for justice***

***Strategic Plan 2023 - 2027***



## Context

### Strategic Plan

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Our broad strategic goals aligned to the *Towards 2027: Expanding Horizons and Deepening Practices Strategy for Catholic Education South Australia*

### Master Plan

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Our vision for the future improvement of the schools built environment and facilities.

### Five Year Financial Plan

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Our vision for the future and the outcomes we strive to achieve through sustainable stewardship of financial resources.

### Annual Development Plan

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Our yearly milestones to achieve our Strategic Plan.

### Annual Professional Learning Plan

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Our staff aligning their personal professional learning with the strategic vision of the school.

## Our Mission

St Anthony's Catholic School is a community of learners who through inquiring minds and reflective hearts celebrate and nurture a love of God, each other and creation to become the good news for the world.

## Our Vision

Growing in Faith

Building Knowledge

Working for Justice

## Our Values

St Anthony's is a community where;

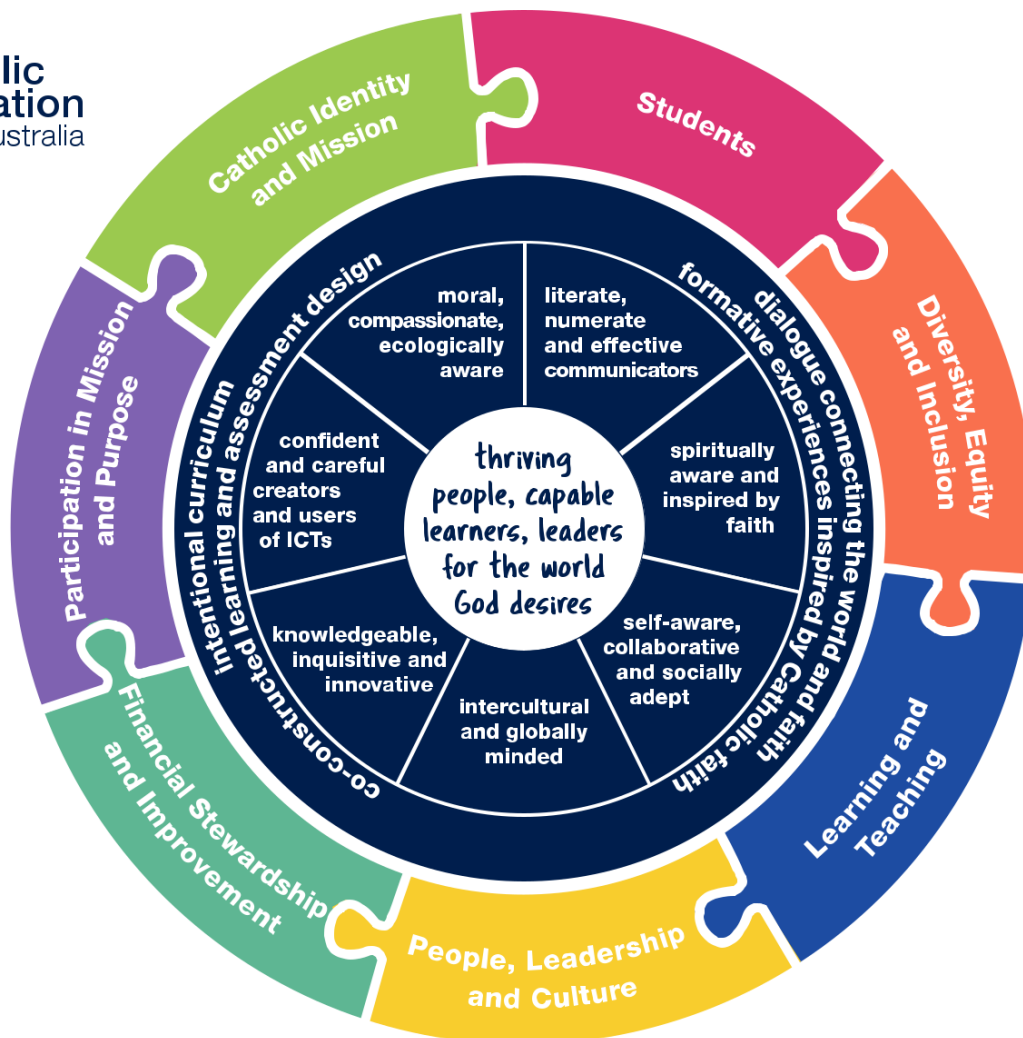
- **We LEARN** by being organised, taking risks, being self-motivated, building and applying knowledge, using thinking skills to challenge, create, invent and problem solve.
- **We LOVE** by treating each other in our world with respect. Through kindness, generosity, compassion and forgiveness we discover the love of God.
- **We LAUGH** by being people of joy, celebrating our successes and special moments as a community.
- **We LISTEN** carefully to each other, the Christian story and the cries of the earth, we are inclusive and value diversity.
- **We LEAD** by serving others, working for the common good, modelling truth and justice.



## Overview

As highlighted in Figure 1, St Anthony's Strategic Plan draws upon CESA's Living, Leading Learning Framework for Catholic Education in South Australia (as shown in Figure 1) by encompassing CESA's vision of learning for every child, namely, to help shape thriving people, capable learners, and leaders for the world God desires.

In addition to this the Strategic Plan captures the key capabilities associated with thinking, learning and leading in a rapidly changing and complex world.



**Figure 1:** Catholic Education South Australia, *Towards 2027: Expanding Horizons and Deepening Practices*, (February 2022), Page 3.

- 1.1 In partnership with students, staff, families, parish, CESA and Archdiocese illuminate the Catholic Tradition and the search for Truth (Veritas) in meaningful ways through Prayer / Worship, Study, Community and Service (Dominican Pillars)
  - 1.2 Create and implement structures and practices to align with On Holy Ground – The CESA ecological conversion and action plan & Archdiocese Laudato Si' Action Platform and Strategic Plan - Our Common Home.
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- 2.1 Be a welcoming and engaging learning community in which students have agency in their learning and embrace the Key Capabilities Continua to measure and reflect on their individual learning journeys.
  - 2.2 Further refine the existing student focussed and data informed approaches to improve student educational and well-being outcomes.
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- 3.1 Work in collaboration with families and agencies to respond to the specific needs of children and young people in our community.
  - 3.2 Through dialogue, open communication and collaborative partnership be a welcoming and nurturing environment for all students and families.
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- 4.1 All learning is high quality, embracing research informed pedagogies, utilising rich & varied resources, using authentic assessment practices and ongoing reporting to students and families.
  - 4.2 Continue to develop shared understandings and consistent teaching and learning practices with the view to forming thriving people, capable learners and leaders for the world God desires.
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- 5.1 Build upon the existing positive staff culture that enables all staff to thrive.
  - 5.2 Create and maintain a dynamic and energised workforce which is actively engaged in professional learning, growth and development, collaboration, and networking.
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- 6.1 Continue the successful management of the school's finances to plan in line with school and CESA strategic priorities.
  - 6.2 Develop outstanding infrastructure and facilities designed to meet the needs of the existing and emerging community.
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- 7.1 Ensure our vision, culture, practices, learning and faith formation experiences are embedded and driven by our Catholic Faith and Dominican Charism.
  - 7.2 Create an excellent educational environment which matters deeply to our staff, students and their families and wider community.

