



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

MARGARET RIVER

Strategic Plan
2020 - 2024



To Seek Wisdom

CECWA Strategic Directions

Catholic Education Western Australia is a Christ-centred community of engaged learning environments, inspiring all to actively live the Gospel.



Vision Statement

Inspiring life-long learners to live their faith and contribute positively to our world.

Mission Statement

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School is a faith community growing together that seeks to develop the potential of each person. We act in a purposeful way where children are offered opportunities to know and love Jesus, to seek wisdom and to develop respect for the rights and dignity of all.

Core Values

- We will join to form a faith-filled community.
- We will develop a respectful and inclusive environment.
- We will provide a balanced and comprehensive curriculum that offers opportunities in a diverse range of areas.
- We will provide an awareness of Social Justice through love and service to others.
- We will treat everyone with equality and fairness.



SCHOOL HISTORY

As a result of meetings and discussions held in 1948, St Joseph's Convent School was opened by the Most Rev. Archbishop Prediville on the 19th March 1950.

The actual building built by the Davies family, was purchased by Fr Farrelly of Busselton for 400 pounds and transported to the Margaret River site.

Responsibility for the Parish of Margaret River was given over to Rev. Fr Sorahan.

Economically the district was struggling but the strong resolve and hard work of the Parents and Friends Association formed in 1950 raised money to purchase the necessary equipment and materials for the school.

For the first time, Catholic parents in the district had an opportunity to send their children to a convent school in their own area. The convent meant that a priest came to stay in Margaret River looked after by the Sisters of St Joseph who were teaching in the school.



The school catered for infants through to students studying for their "Junior Certificate."

The school had an enrolment of up to eighty students with music, typing and shorthand included in the curriculum offered.

The school operated successfully until its closure in 1970. It wasn't until the 28th March 1993 that the new school named St Thomas More Catholic Primary School was opened by Catholic Education Director, Mrs Therese Temby and blessed by the Bishop of Bunbury, the Most Rev. Peter Quinn.

The foundation Principal was Sr Kathleen Hitchcock who began operations with an intake of students from Pre-Primary through to Year Five.

Stage Two was officially opened and blessed on the 27th May 1995 and Stage Three on the 23rd October 1998. The school has been operating as a co-educational, single stream facility ever since with an expanded curriculum offering the specialist areas of Indonesian, Visual Art, Physical Education and Music.

The school has a large oval with cricket nets and tiered seating, numerous play areas, including a Nature-playground and a basketball/netball court. Within the school complex are two large undercover areas and a separate play area for the Kindergarten and Pre-Primary students.



SCHOOL GOALS

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School goals are established in order to demonstrate how our Vision, Mission, Core Values and Motto are enacted upon, assisting to guide our decision-making processes and strategic directions.

Our school goals are:

- To develop a stronger Catholic Identity within the school by assisting students to mature as Christian persons who contribute to the life and mission of the Church.
- To become the primary school of choice in the Margaret River area through the provision of programs that incorporate best practice and diverse learning experiences through a broad, balanced and developmentally appropriate curriculum using 21st Century learning principles to improve student engagement and achievement.
- To provide pastoral opportunities to develop positive mental health and wellbeing for all students and staff that promote dignity and integrity.
- To connect with the school and wider communities, creating a positive presence in the community to increase enrolment numbers.
- To provide contemporary infrastructure, facilities and equipment to meet the needs of our school, whilst ensuring financial sustainability.



1. CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Inspiring Christ-Centred Leaders

- *To develop a stronger Catholic Identity within the school by assisting students to mature as Christian persons who contribute to the life and mission of the Church.*

Key Improvement Strategies

- Offering more opportunities for staff and students to attend Mass each term – at least two whole-school Masses each term.
- Enhancing opportunities for personal faith development – both staff and students.
- Provision of school-based professional development each year for staff in either the Faith or Knowledge areas as well as Faith, Story, Witness.
- Utilise Year 6 Social Justice student leaders to support charities and raise awareness of the plight of others.
- Celebrate Holy Week – Year 4 to provide a reflection about the Last Supper; Year 5 to provide a reflection on Palm Sunday and Year 6 to present the Stations of the Cross.
- Creation of a 'prayer garden' providing students a space to pray and reflect.
- Improve staff knowledge and understanding of the history of the Church and Eucharist and the traditions and gestures used during Eucharistic celebrations.
- Encourage more staff to become Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist.
- Development of a school prayer that encompasses the beliefs and values of our school.





2. EDUCATION

Catholic Schools of Excellence

- ***To become the primary school of choice in the Margaret River area through the provision of programs that incorporate best practice and diverse learning experiences through a broad, balanced and developmentally appropriate curriculum using 21st Century learning principles to improve student engagement and achievement.***

Key Improvement Strategies

- Provide a broad, balanced and developmentally appropriate curriculum which utilises best practices in teaching and learning.
- Promote consistency across year levels in the teaching of whole-school programs.
- Integrate the use of technology into teaching programs to enrich learning opportunities.
- Improve literacy and numeracy skills through the development of staff capacity to improve student achievement.
- Extend and expand programs offered – Clubs, LEAP, Instrumental, Support, Peer Support.
- Use data to inform teaching practices incorporating the use of the data wall and Literacy Collective principles.
- Apply future-focused learning and 21st century pedagogies incorporating inquiry-based learning and higher-order-thinking-skills.
- Consistently and comprehensively implement the requirements of the National Quality Standards across Kindergarten to Year 2.
- ***To provide pastoral opportunities to develop positive mental health and wellbeing for all students and staff that promote dignity and integrity.***

Key Improvement Strategies

- Engagement of a School Chaplaincy worker to support the pastoral needs of the school.
- Continue to support and develop staff wellness.
- Developing student resilience.
- Promote positive mental health and well-being for students and staff.

3. COMMUNITY

Catholic Pastoral Communities

- *To connect with the school and wider communities, creating a positive presence in the community to increase enrolment numbers.*

Key Improvement Strategies

- Marketing in the wider community through a range of mediums, including social and print media and a presence at community events.
- Establish a strategic approach to promote our school and enhance communication within and beyond the school community through the engagement of a Public Relations and marketing expert.
- Offer 3-Year-Old Kindy or Long Day Care service and a Playgroup once a week.
- Parents to continue to be actively involved in the school, particularly through the School Board and P&F.
- Enhance the sense of community and belonging towards the school, through opportunities for regular interactions.



4. STEWARDSHIP

Accessible, Affordable and Sustainable System of Schools

- *To provide contemporary infrastructure, facilities and equipment to meet the needs of our school, whilst ensuring financial sustainability.*

Key Improvement Strategies

- Ensuring the financial administration follows CEWA policies and protocols and expenditure is kept within the annual budget and other allocated budget areas.
- Continue to work with the CEWA appointed accountant in reducing the deficit budget and implement strategies and processes to assist this.
- Upgrade of the Nature Playground and Adventure Playground.
- Implementation of a Maintenance program, including fixing of rust issues, painting and general maintenance items being carried out.
- Plan for the consistent progression of changes to classrooms ensuring spaces are evolving into more contemporary and attractive areas that are conducive to learning in the 21st Century.

