



Toowoomba Catholic Schools

excellence
A W A R D S

2024



**Diocese of Toowoomba
Catholic Schools**



The *Spirit of Catholic Education Awards* are presented annually as part of *Queensland Catholic Education Week* (CEW) celebrations. The awards aim to recognise those who are making an outstanding contribution within the Catholic education community.

2024 Spirit of Catholic Education Award recipient

Eileen Moyle – Manager: Inclusive Education Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office

Respected and admired throughout Toowoomba Catholic Schools, Eileen's dedication over twenty-eight years to staff, students and their families has had a lasting impact.

As an exceptional leader, Eileen's commitment to rigorous practices and high expectations is coupled with warmth and the ability to connect with others genuinely and deeply.

Eileen's expertise lies in evidence-informed recommendations and expectations for teaching and learning. She is a sought-after collaborator, frequently engaged by schools and colleagues to share her insights and lead the development of inclusive education structures.

One example of her impact is Diocesan-wide 'Planning for Personalised Learning' (PfPL). Through PfPL, teachers have gained confidence and competence in tailoring curriculum delivery to cater to student diversity, ensuring no one is left behind.

Her ability to identify and support change to ensure greater equity in education has also included teacher training in non-violent crisis intervention. Eileen's empathetic approach has fostered openness and renewed perspectives ensuring our most vulnerable students can access their learning environment because of confident teachers who feel supported in challenging situations.

Guided by Catholic values, Eileen honours the dignity of every person. She invests time in building meaningful relationships, actively listening and providing support for professional growth. Her transparent decision-making processes reflect integrity, respect, and high ethical standards. She encourages diverse viewpoints through open dialogue, thus ensuring innovative ideas flourish.

In a role where diversity is championed and celebrated every day, it is Eileen's inclusive leadership that has created an environment where diverse perspectives, experiences and ideas are valued.

It is for these reasons we wish to acknowledge Eileen as this year's Diocese of Toowoomba SOCE recipient and thank her for contributing to the full and flourishing lives of staff, students and their families.

The Aunty Joan Hendriks Reconciliation Award and the 2024 Spirit of Catholic Education Award are sponsored by:



UniSuper



2024 Aunty Joan Hendriks Reconciliation Award recipient

Jodi Marshall – Head of Boarding St Ursula's College, Toowoomba

Jodi's leadership at St Ursula's College is truly transformative. Known for her integrity and compassion, she leads the boarding house with a blend of fun, laughter, honesty and strong values.

Under Jodi's leadership the boarding house has become a sanctuary where acceptance of differences, honest communication and resilience are daily lessons.

Whilst embracing all - remote and international students, those in difficult family situations, and those with learning or physical challenges - her commitment to equity and equality is especially impactful for First Nations students. Jodi's understanding of their communities enables her to support these students with compassion and guidance, leading to their success in scholarships, sports, academics and cultural engagement.

Building a strong Catholic identity, Jodi fosters a sense of sisterhood that the girls carry with them for life. She has introduced cherished traditions like weekly family nights, Christmas in July and the Year 12 formal family dinner, enhancing community spirit.

Her emphasis on building and maintaining relationships lasts long after graduation, with students welcomed back as visitors and special guests.

Jodi's service extends beyond the boarding house. One example of note is ...and don't spoil this secret...she is often incognito at school events as the Ursie Bear, the school mascot.

For all that you do Jodi, you are a beloved member of the College community and a worthy recipient of the Aunty Joan Hendriks Reconciliation Award.



Toowoomba Catholic Schools Excellence Awards recognise members of the Toowoomba Catholic Schools community who create exemplary places of learning where every student experiences academic success and comes to know and experience the loving presence of Jesus.

Teaching and learning support sponsored by WonderKarma

Jodi Marshall – Head of Boarding St Ursula's College, Toowoomba

Jodi, an unwavering advocate for student-centred education, fosters an inclusive environment that transcends mere academic achievements. Her commitment to holistic growth, empathy and collaboration enriches the College community, empowering students to embrace their unique potential.

Jodi advocates for equality and equity, ensuring that all students, regardless of their backgrounds or adversities, have equal opportunities for growth and learning. She instils students with values of acceptance, respect and resilience, guiding them to embrace their differences as opportunities for growth.

Within the boarding community, Jodi cultivates a sense of belonging and unity. She empowers girls to embrace their individual skills and talents, collaborating to brainstorm, develop, create, market and sell products that give back to the community. This initiative fosters connections between students, the school and the wider community.

Jodi's impact extends beyond the classroom. As a beloved and integral member of the College staff, she actively promotes St Ursula's College. Her dedication takes her to remote areas, inviting potential boarders as well as welcoming international student tour groups, embodying the spirit of unity and learning.

Jodi's commitment to collaboration, professionalism and community has fostered a great sense of belonging among students, staff and parents alike.

Leona Doherty – Head of Learning Support St Anthony's School, Toowoomba

Leona's dedicated advocacy for student success and support of teachers ensures that students with diverse needs reach their full potential.

As the coordinator of a team of school officers and intervention teachers, Leona aligns their professional development with the school's strategic priorities. This fosters collaboration between them as they implement strategies across all classrooms.

Leona is known for going beyond traditional approaches as she equips teachers with engaging materials tailored to individualised lessons, promoting hands-on learning experiences. When working with students, her kind and softly spoken encouragement ensures even the quietest or shyest child interacts positively.

Leona's connection to the English as an Additional Language or Dialect community is profound. Recognised as a safe and caring presence at the school, she facilitates an informal morning tea group for parents from this community. Through this welcoming environment, families share their stories and build connections. Additionally, Leona collaborates with organisations like St Vincent De Paul to provide financial assistance to families in need.

Teaching and learning support sponsored by WonderKarma

Nancy Heritage – Teacher Aide and Campus Minister St Ursula's College, Toowoomba

Nancy embodies the essence of dedication, innovation and deep commitment. She is known for creating nurturing environments where every student thrives academically and socially while experiencing the loving presence of Jesus. Her approach is characterised by her dedication and gentle demeanour.

Nancy's passion for development engaging and effective learning experiences, is grounded in prioritising students' needs. Whether collaborating with teaching staff to develop tailored learning plans, providing one-on-one support to students, or integrating innovative teaching methodologies into the curriculum, she is focussed on unleashing the full potential of every learner.

Innovation lies at the heart of Nancy's support strategies. Beyond conventional methods, she seeks creative solutions to address evolving student needs in both classroom and extra-curricular activities. Notably, Nancy organises and attends service activities like Rosies which foster a sense of belonging and community and during lunch breaks she runs meditation sessions for students and staff, offering them a peaceful retreat amidst the busyness of the school day.

It is for these reasons that Nancy is a lived example of the spirit of a Serviam Woman.

Administration, finance and facilities support sponsored by Toowoomba Toyota

Christie Mastin-Richardson – Careers Support Officer Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields

Christie has significantly bolstered the efficiency of the Careers Education program at the College, thanks to her exploration and use of technology to revamp information collection and streamline record-keeping.

Her personal approach to communication, tailoring what she uses to meet the needs of students, staff and parents, has enabled her to build a positive rapport with all.

Event management is a strength of Christie's, where she capitalises on her people and technology skills so that events are planned, communicated, implemented and reviewed meticulously.

Over the years, Christie has cultivated a vast network of connections with many different organisations, businesses, universities and training organisations. These partnerships have opened up numerous opportunities for students and have significantly expanded the Careers Education program. Notably, Christie has been instrumental in the introduction of an innovative aviation program at the College.

An invaluable member of the Careers Team, Christie embodies the spirit of service championed by Mary MacKillop.

Jodie Ramage – Administration Officer St Thomas More's Primary School, Toowoomba

Jodie epitomises the spirit of selflessness. While her official role revolves around finance and enrolments, her impact extends far beyond administrative tasks. She possesses an uncanny ability to identify needs swiftly and take decisive action.

Jodie truly shines in her unofficial capacity as the school's 'linchpin'. She knows every student by name, understands their unique circumstances, and provides support to students and teachers. Her presence at P&F meetings and her willingness to volunteer time underscore her commitment.

Beyond her role, Jodie's dedication manifests itself in many ways. She orchestrates events, raises funds for cancer organisations and infuses the school with her vibrant artwork. Her humility and loyalty inspires others.

Jodie leads by example, consistently giving her all and her impact reverberates through every hallway, classroom and event.

Administration, finance and facilities support

sponsored by Toowoomba Toyota

Warren Farquharson – Groundsman and Facilities St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba

Warren, affectionately known as 'Mr Warren' by the students, has made an indelible impact through his focus on grounds beautification and maintenance, transforming the school environment.

Warren's demonstration of the Catholic social teaching of Care for our Common Home is a great role model to students. He carries out his responsibilities for maintaining and caring for the natural and built environments with great passion and integrity.

As the school undergoes significant renovations, Warren is ensuring that the indoor and outdoor learning spaces continue to be inviting and conducive to student engagement. Collaborating seamlessly with site managers and builders, Warren communicates effectively to facilitate their work.

Beyond his technical skills, Warren demonstrates to others the school's learner qualities: collaborative, communicative, determined, creative and adventurous. His friendly nature and efficiency have earned him high regard. His time management, use of technology, and commitment to professional development exemplify his professionalism.

Because of all of this, his impact extends far beyond his grounds work; he fosters relationships and inspires action, making the school a better place for everyone.

Tyhla Roper – Director of Marketing and Communications St Mary's College, Toowoomba

Tyhla, a highly skilled marketing, public relations and events coordinator, has made an enduring impact on the College by elevating its profile. Her meticulous attention to detail and excellence have enhanced the quality of events across the College calendar, contributing to its positive reputation and sustained growth.

Tyhla oversees all communications and ensures they reflect both current realities and future aspirations for the College. Her successful 'Men for Tomorrow' campaign resonates throughout College life, fostering stronger connections among students, parents and staff.

An outstanding writer, Tyhla crafts compelling communications, including the annual College magazine. Her enrolment campaign leveraged social media, open evenings, principal tours and strategic signage to generate unprecedented interest in the College for 2025.

Tyhla's collaboration extends to the St Mary's Old Boys Association, bridging the gap between the College and the Association. Successful events, like the Old Boys Ball, have highlighted her dedication. Her investment of extra hours ensures flawless execution.

Tyhla's inclusivity, dedication and embodiment of the Edmund Rice touchstones make her a role model for other staff members, setting the standard for excellence at St Mary's.

Volunteer support

sponsored by SPA - Salary Packaging Australia

Darryl Betzien – Groundsperson St Patrick's Primary School, Mitchell

Darryl's volunteering is characterised by his dedication, kindness and care. Beyond his official role, he selflessly volunteers countless additional hours to support St Patrick's and the wider community.

His tireless work ensures the school grounds are pristine for community events and day-to-day activities. He actively seeks innovative solutions to enhance the learning experiences for students. Two such examples are his collaboration on a student-led garden project and the sacred Peace Garden. Both are key features of the school's grounds and foster a sense of ownership and pride and are the focal point for learning and liturgical celebrations.

Darryl's volunteering extends beyond the school gates to local groups, fostering connections that benefit the community. His encouragement leads the school to participate in events with these groups building strong relationships. It is because of this, that he has amplified the positive presence of St Patrick's Primary School in Mitchell.

Darryl's volunteering also includes cooking camp oven dinners, collecting cans for recycling and driving the community bus for student outings.

Darryl's motivation – a genuine desire to make others happy.

Jodie Cosmo – Parents and Friends Association St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe

Jodie's commitment to the school has left an indelible mark over the past 12½ years. As a dedicated member of the Parents and Friends (P&F) Association, she actively supports fundraising and community-building initiatives.

Jodie's leadership shines during the annual P&F Trivia Nights, large-scale events that attract 200-250 participants and raise substantial funds for the school. She orchestrates every detail, from finding sponsors to organising catering and childminding, with infectious enthusiasm and a perpetual smile.

Serving as P&F treasurer for 3½ years, Jodie's accounting skills have ensured accurate financial management, safeguarding funds for school improvements, assets and student activities.

Beyond the P&F, Jodie actively engages with parents, carers and newcomers. She fosters positive relationships, enhancing the school's reputation. Her involvement extends to school working bees, the tuckshop and classroom support.

Jodie's positivity, dedication and community-building ethos make her an asset to the school and the broader Stanthorpe community.

Early career teacher sponsored by Unisuper

Riley Salter – Secondary Teacher - Modern History/Drama Assumption College, Warwick

Riley has a passion for teaching and a contagious energy and enthusiasm. He goes above and beyond, taking on leadership roles and extra-curricular activities that foster a positive learning environment at the College.

In addition to the expected responsibilities of an Early Career Teacher, Riley serves as a Subject Discipline Literacy (SDL) Coach, supporting staff with greater experience. His commitment to professional growth extends to networking with other institutions, enriching the College community. Riley also facilitates the SDL Professional Learning Team, expanding connections with St Joseph's College, Toowoomba and Education Officers from TCSO.

Riley spearheaded the creation of the ANZAC Day liturgy, collaborating with a local historian. His dedication to our community also led to the construction of an Honour Board, honouring local service people. Through these projects, he has challenged students to reflect on their place in the world.

Riley's overall positive impact on the College community, his exceptional care for students and his commitment to community building are what set him apart in this early part of his career.

Nicole Hoffmann – Prep Teacher St Monica's School, Oakey

Nicole, an energetic, dedicated and passionate teacher, demonstrates outstanding abilities.

She recognised early the importance of behaviour management, setting clear expectations and effective relationship-building skills - as a result her classroom is a place of calm and learning.

With a number of students demonstrating speech difficulties, Nicole has dedicated her time to ensuring these students have access to the curriculum and thrive. Collaborating with the TCSO Speech Pathologist, she has mastered the 'Acute Articulation' program, assisting students' development through precise mouth movements.

Nicole's impact on student achievement saw 90% of last year's Preppies reaching benchmark and making expected to high growth. Bringing lessons to life through engaging, hands-on real-world tasks and maintaining transition routines that keep the class focussed, engaged and settled - all experience success.

Recently, Nicole's reading lessons were filmed by TSCO for training purposes - an acknowledgement of her quality implementation of the Diocesan Approach to Reading.

Beyond academics, Nicole invests in students' social and emotional wellbeing. She knows their interests, strengths and challenges, actively checking on their welfare. Her support extends to foster families, providing a friendly face and referrals when needed. Through this and so much more, Nicole embodies St Monica's Good Samaritan Charism, demonstrating care, compassion and Gospel values.

Early career teacher sponsored by Unisuper

Emily Blair – Year 4 Teacher Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby

Hallmarks of Emily's practices are dedication, adaptability and student-centredness.

Emily's meaningful connections with students and families always set a positive tone.

It is because of these relationships she is able to effectively plan and cater for diverse needs.

Emily's classroom is a place of nurture - a supportive, calm environment where students feel safe to take risks. Fostering engagement through 'The Learning Pit' and 'OLSCC Learning Dispositions', she prioritises age-appropriate pedagogies, personal stories and histories and celebrates the creation of a culture of acceptance. Regularly gathering student voice, Emily reviews goals and provides feedback that moves learning forward.

As an active seeker of professional development aligned with her performance plan, Emily readily translates new skills into effective practice. She embraces change and consistently seeks to increase her knowledge by observing experienced peers and seeking feedback.

Emily's has taken on additional leadership beyond the classroom. She has facilitated Optiminds for three years, at the lunchtime 'Creative and Critical Thinking Club'. Teams she leads have achieved success at the 2022 and 2023 Optiminds Tournaments, with the Middle Years team invited to the State Championships in 2023.

Primary/Kindergarten expert teacher
sponsored by Unisuper**Brendan Luck – Health and Physical Education Teacher**
St Saviour's Primary School, Toowoomba

Brendan's passion for education and genuine care for students both in and outside the classroom has enriched the lives of students at St Saviour's.

His excellent curriculum knowledge allows him to assess students over time, ensuring skill development. Formative data informs his teaching practices, and his detailed, contemporary planning aligns with recent curriculum changes. In Health and Physical Education, every student experiences success due to his thoughtful differentiation and student-centred approach. He extends these experiences beyond traditional teaching, using a variety of unconventional activities including juggling and American football.

Brendan's support for extracurricular activities like Fitness Club, athletics training and touch football further demonstrate to students his commitment to them and their wellbeing. He nominates students for trials, offering unique challenges and opportunities they would not engage in without his support and encouragement.

The environment he creates fosters a love for sport even in unlikely or disinterested students, putting SSPS on the map across School, District and State levels.

In addition, Brendan's successful grant applications have upgraded equipment and provided free after-school sporting opportunities for Prep-6 students.

Angela Skillington – Prep to Year 3 Teacher
St Francis de Sales School, Clifton

Angela is an expert teacher, consistently delivering high-quality student outcomes as a hallmark of her 17-year career.

Her ability to employ evidence-based and student-specific strategies for academic success stand out. Angela tailors her approach to meet the unique needs of each student, demonstrating decisiveness and meticulous planning. Her commitment ensures every student has the best chance to achieve academic success while deepening their connection with Jesus.

In her classroom, Angela creates an environment of both support and challenge. Her experience in a multi-age setting has honed her teaching knowledge and practical skills.

Angela's students consistently demonstrate remarkable growth, and she continues to foster learning for life dispositions among them. This is coupled with her ability to transport children back in time to Jerusalem, infusing excellent morals through the Spirit of Catholic Education – something that parents see as truly remarkable.

Angela's work with students and parents to facilitate smooth integration into the school community is also exemplary. It is because of her kindness and support that families are at such ease and the community of St Francis de Sales is flourishing.

Primary/Kindergarten expert teacher
sponsored by Unisuper**Deena Jones – Year 2 Teacher**
St Thomas More's Primary School, Toowoomba

Deena is a teacher committed to using evidence-based, high-impact teaching strategies in her classroom.

Deena's focus on reducing discrepancies between student understanding and intended learning drives progress tracking and assessment. Collaborating with cohort teachers and the St Thomas More's Leadership Team she actively seeks feedback, particularly related to planning and pedagogical practices, continually enhancing her approach to inform personalised learning plans.

Beyond the classroom, Deena leads the 'Dare to be a Rockstar Teacher' wellbeing program, enhancing staff wellbeing through surveys, group sessions and observations.

Her passion for lifelong learning, student-centred approaches, and commitment to building connections exemplify the school's values. Deena's innovative spirit and willingness to explore new strategies benefit students and staff alike - making St Thomas More's a better place every day.

Christine (Chrissy) Carter – Prep Teacher
Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields

Chrissy is an exemplary educator whose dedication to teaching excellence is evident in her mastery of evidence-based strategies and drive for student success. Recognised for her expertise, she creates an inclusive and safe learning environment where all students thrive. Her professional knowledge is sought after by colleagues, and she generously shares her insights to enhance classroom experiences across the College.

A leader in mentoring, Chrissy guides new teachers, fostering their growth and building a collaborative team that achieves success together. Her innovative use of technology in education and her ability to set high expectations in her classroom inspires students and educators alike.

Chrissy's approach to education is data-driven, allowing her to assess student progress and meticulously review the effectiveness of educational programs. Her personalised learning plans are informed by a deep understanding of student needs and current educational research. She adeptly tailors learning experiences to support students' diverse developmental stages.



Secondary expert teacher
sponsored by Unisuper

Esther Hohenheim – Mathematics Teacher
Assumption College, Warwick

Esther's transformative impact on education extends beyond the local community, resonating across Queensland and the world.

As an acknowledged expert classroom practitioner, Esther champions evidence-based, high-impact strategies that affirm the dignity and potential of all students. Her commitment to fostering an inclusive and empowering Mathematics department has transformed classrooms, creating an environment where every student thrives.

Esther's influence reaches beyond the College. As a QCAA Lead Marker and External Examiner for General Mathematics, she contributes significantly to syllabus development within the new QCE system. Her expertise extends to presenting at the Queensland Association of Mathematics Teachers State Conference and TCS' External Examination Preparation Program (EEPP).

Esther's journey as an educator reflects resilience, innovation, and a deep commitment to personalised learning and inclusivity. Drawing from her own experience of clinical blindness, she ensures the accessibility and flexibility of subject delivery. Formative and diagnostic assessment lies at the heart of her approach.

Kylie Purbrick – Senior Years English Teacher
Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby

Kylie, a dedicated and expert educator of English, employs evidence-based, high-impact strategies that affirm the dignity and potential of all students.

Her meticulous and personalised planning keeps the subject context up to date with current events and depths students' thinking by asking critical questions that encourage reflection.

Kylie also ensures content and pedagogy respond to students' cultural backgrounds and life experiences, challenging them to think deeply about their place in the world.

As a result, students remember English not just for the text or poetry they wrote, but for the rich experiences of critical thinking and engagement. It is because of this that English is considered a standout subject at the College.

Collaborating with her teaching colleagues in Year 11 to 12 English, in 2023, six out of twenty Year 12 students achieved scores above 70 out of 75 in their final QCAA, with three students scoring a perfect 75. Kylie's consistent approach, data utilisation and relational pedagogy contributed to this student success and engagement.



Secondary expert teacher
sponsored by Unisuper

Matthew Chivers – Art Teacher
Mary MacKillop Catholic College, Highfields

Matthew's influence in education resonates well beyond his classroom walls. He is a beacon of support for his students, providing a nurturing space that bolsters their confidence and growth. His exceptional ability to ignite a passion for art and nurture his students' talents is widely acknowledged.

A touching testament to Matthew's profound impact comes from a student who, facing a challenging time, wrote a moving letter expressing immense gratitude. This student highlighted not only the emotional support received from Matthew but also the inspiration to embrace The Arts.

His commitment to the educational and art communities is remarkable, consistently going the extra mile to make a meaningful difference. Parents and students alike are vocal in their appreciation, recognising the extraordinary lengths he goes to in nurturing the artistic pursuits and mindsets of his students. Matthew's dedication is a shining example of the profound influence a devoted educator can have.



Emerging leadership
sponsored by Schoolzine**Jake Weise – Year 7 Coordinator and Teacher**
St Mary's College, Toowoomba

Jake has been an invaluable asset to the St Mary's community for five years. He has made an exemplary contribution to school improvement through visionary leadership, data-informed practice and a commitment to engagement and relationship building.

Spearheading various school improvement initiatives, such as the Year 7 Badge Ceremony and Year 7 Wellbeing Day, has grown the sense of belonging and support for this cohort and created a strong foundation for students' academic journey and transition to secondary.

Jake's leadership and teaching approach is rooted in data and research. He regularly reviews academic and attendance data, collaborates with teachers to tailor teaching strategies and to create and support interventions. This establishes learning environments, where every student can thrive academically, personally and spiritually; and where teachers are also supported to succeed.

Jake actively engages in community outreach efforts, furthering his impact beyond the classroom. His involvement in coaching sports teams and volunteering with organisations such as Rosies demonstrates his commitment to positive social change. By supporting students in extracurricular activities, Jake reinforces holistic development and well-roundedness.

Melita Dellit – Year 1 Teacher
Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby

In 2023, when a student with a diagnosis of Albinism joined Melita's class, she took the initiative to promote awareness of this medical condition among her students and the College community. Her efforts extended beyond the student she was teaching, inspiring the student's younger brother, who also has Albinism.

Recognising the need for equitable access to the curriculum, Melita focused on supporting this severely vision-impaired student's transition to learning Braille. She introduced Braille as an everyday teaching tool, seamlessly embedding it into various subjects. In English, she created Braille picture books for students to read, and in HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences), she introduced Louis Braille using interactive CANVAS pages.

Melita's commitment to enhancing her teaching practice led her to seek professional development sessions and collaborate with external consultants. Her genuine impact extended beyond the classroom, benefiting the entire family. Now teaching the youngest sibling, who also has Albinism, Melita's pathways have facilitated a flawless transition to Braille literacy across the College.

Emerging leadership
sponsored by Schoolzine**Sophie Elmes – Learning Support Teacher**
Holy Name Primary School, Toowoomba

Sophie's impact on the school community is immeasurable. As a dedicated educator, she works tirelessly with students facing learning challenges and skillfully coordinates the Holy Name enrichment program.

Sophie's collaborative approach involves analysing data and working closely with classroom teachers to identify specific areas of need for both underachieving and high-potential learners. Through her expert guidance, students engage in meaningful learning experiences that foster the use of the Holy Name Powers of the Mind: persistence, communication, reflection and collaboration.

Sophie's commitment to ongoing professional development sets an inspiring example for the entire school community. She actively seeks out learning opportunities to enhance her teaching practice, even dedicating her own time to her professional growth. Sophie seamlessly integrates new knowledge into the school context, further elevating her already exemplary performance.

In recognition of her outstanding leadership, Sophie has been invited to join the Extended Leadership Team at Holy Name in 2024, where her invaluable insights continue to shape the school's success.



Middle leadership
sponsored by Data#3**Simone Forbes – Middle Leader Mathematics**
Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, Dalby

Simone has been instrumental in the implementation of the College's vision and policies at the classroom level. Her role spans across different sectors of the College, ensuring comprehensive and cohesive management of everything from curriculum planning and implementation to student behaviour management and staff development.

Supporting the Assistant Principal Senior Years, Simone has contributed to building staff and student capacity, resulting in stronger teacher retention and enhanced student capabilities. Under Simone's guidance in Mathematics, the 'Back 2 Front Maths' project has empowered staff, leading to marked growth in student performance across Years 7 to 12. Notably, 80% of Year 11 and 12 Math Methods students have achieved scores exceeding 75% under her leadership.

Simone's proactive approach to analysing student performance data to address potential learning environment challenges results in targeted programs and impressive grades.

As a leader, Simone inspires staff through both her actions and direct guidance. Leveraging her expertise and effective team management, Simone sets high standards and guides the team towards positive student outcomes. She actively seeks relevant professional development opportunities for herself and her team members, ensuring ongoing growth and excellence. This has transformed the attitude of Senior Years staff.

Middle leadership
sponsored by Data#3**Kerrie Connolly – Director of Wellbeing**
St Mary's College, Toowoomba

An experienced teacher of 29 years, Kerrie's leadership and expertise is evident in her classroom and beyond. She knows that academic excellence thrives when students exhibit appropriate behavioural, emotional and cognitive engagement, hence she focuses on holistic development.

Recently, Kerrie launched a kindness campaign involving Year 8 students. Rotational activities led by Year 12 role models emphasise the promotion and acknowledgement of kindness across the College community. The program will soon extend to Years 5-7. Another example is the 'Top Blokes' program addressing the needs of young males and fostering healthy masculinity.

Kerrie's mentoring of junior staff, evaluating teaching programs, and collaborating with house leaders is also a hallmark of her leadership.

As a religious leader, she weaves faith into all interactions and actively engages in social justice initiatives as a strong role model to staff and students alike.

Another key part of Kerrie's role is providing crucial care and support during crises. She oversees the College's outreach program, offering external assistance to students facing difficulties. From home visits with house leaders and counsellors to providing home-cooked meals, Kerrie collaborates with community supports and wellbeing centres.

Shari Pauli – Director of Years 5-9 Curriculum
St Mary's College, Toowoomba

A respected and highly regarded member of the broader leadership team, Shari was recently appointed as the Director of Years 5-9 Curriculum.

During Term 1 of this year, Shari adeptly fulfilled the responsibilities of both Primary Leader and Acting Director of Years 5-9 Curriculum. During this time, her leadership extended beyond core administrative duties; she also taught a Year 6 class, organised the Year 5 camp, coordinated NAPLAN activities and oversaw academic awards assemblies.

Shari plays a crucial role in the Student Engagement team through meticulous data analysis and regular reflection on the research and study into boy-specific behaviour management and pastoral care. This has ensured that her goal of fostering self-directed and self-reflective abilities of all boys is core to the work of this team.

Shari also serves as a bridge between curriculum and student engagement staff, deeply aware that her efforts directly impact students' daily learning experiences. Her adaptability and thoughtful leadership set an example for other team leaders. Amidst day-to-day busyness, Shari's strength is her ability to remain focused on core educational goals and values.

School/Kindergarten leadership
sponsored by Hayball**Sarah Yates – Assistant Principal: Primary and Teaching and Learning**
St Joseph's School, Stanthorpe

Sarah plays a pivotal role in shaping teaching and learning, spearheading innovation including the Visible Learning Program and Exemplary Teaching and Learning Framework.

Her ability to contextualise research has significantly improved teaching practices across the school and has led to the school achieving Level 3 Visible Learning+ Certification, one of only eight schools worldwide. Sarah's ongoing commitment and her role as an accredited Visible Learning trainer underscore her expertise.

Working closely with the school leadership team, Sarah oversees professional development sessions for St Joseph's staff and she is a sought-after advisor for other educators across the Diocese.

Beyond academics, Sarah prioritises the school's Catholic identity and Mercy charism. This is evident during fortnightly assemblies, where she clearly articulates the school's values and mission. Her collaboration with parents and staff also emphasises the importance of learning and social-emotional support. Through her efforts, students, staff and parents grow in understanding their purpose as lifelong learners who act in a Christ-like manner.

Fiona Drew – Assistant Principal: Religious Education
St Stephen's School, Pittsworth

Fiona's compassion and generosity resonate throughout the school. As a passionate and enthusiastic Assistant Principal and Year 4 teacher she plays a pivotal role as she understands the practical challenges faced by classroom educators as well as the importance of leading.

With a focus on the Illuminate Project in 2024 Fiona's expertise in Religious Education has been grounded in theory and demonstrated in modelling lessons in classrooms, collaborating with teachers and providing invaluable support for effective student learning.

Her evidence-based approach has also been seen as the staff engage with the Diocesan Approach to Reading. Fiona has been key in the upskilling of teachers to enhance student outcomes.

In the busyness of the day to day, Fiona never loses sight of her role in nurturing the religious life of the community. She actively fosters positive relationships with the Parish and wider Pittsworth community through school Masses, liturgies and prayer celebrations. She also leads the MacKillop Club, where she empowers students to provide outreach, fundraise, and grow in faith. Her modelling of this commitment to service reflects Mary MacKillop's legacy: Never see a need without doing something about it.

School/Kindergarten leadership
sponsored by Hayball**Brendon Willocks – Deputy Principal**
St Joseph's College, Toowoomba

Brendon is an educational leader with a keen focus on student success. He has been instrumental in driving positive change at St Joseph's College and improving learning outcomes. His strategic approach involves developing, implementing and rigorously reviewing evidence-based teaching practices. One example is his championing of the targeted literacy improvement lessons for students in Years 7 to 9. These lessons equip students with essential reading, writing and comprehension abilities for academic growth.

Brendon's commitment to data-driven decision-making sees him collaborate closely with the learning enhancement team. His visionary leadership extended to reimagining NAPLAN preparation and administration. Innovative strategies alleviated test anxiety, enhanced student confidence and optimised performance, leading to improved NAPLAN outcomes.

Brendon's advocacy for Catholic identity and the College's ethos permeates every aspect of his leadership. Purposeful actions foster a vibrant faith-based environment. His uplifting gestures toward staff create a culture of encouragement and mutual respect. He weaves faith, compassion and purpose into the fabric of the school, champions collaborative learning communities and empowers educators to thrive, learn, and contribute to St Joseph's College.

Eileen Moyle – Manager: Inclusive Education
Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office

Eileen stands out as an exceptional leader. Her investment of time in building relationships and encouraging professional growth has had a positive impact on student learning across the Diocese.

As a key contributor to the Planning for Personalised Learning (PfPL) initiative, Eileen significantly boosted teachers' confidence and competence in adjusting curriculum delivery to cater to student diversity.

Collaborating closely with the Senior Education Officers of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission, Eileen has also provided essential guidance for school teams in meeting expectations for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data.

In 2022, Eileen negotiated a partnership between Griffith University and the Toowoomba Catholic Schools Office. The result was the Griffith University Micro-Credential in Learning Support. Thirty-nine individuals, including school leaders, learning support staff, teachers, and allied health professionals, participated in this transformative course.

It is Eileen's integrity, collaborative decision-making and inclusivity that have fostered an environment where diverse perspectives are valued. Her dedication to living Catholic values through her interactions, emphasises her compassion, respect and high ethical standards.

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