



Nazareth College is a Catholic Co-educational Regional Secondary College established in 1986. It is a learning community centred on the person of Jesus Christ.

Through learning and teaching in the Catholic tradition, we foster a culture of Faith, Wisdom and Knowledge.

***'He returned to Nazareth and became strong, filled with wisdom; And the favour of God was upon Him.'*** (Luke 2:40)

The ongoing theme for our College is:

One in Christ  
Engaging Minds  
Igniting Hearts

Nazareth College, as a Catholic faith Community, has fundamentally at the heart of its spirituality, the person of Jesus Christ. At Nazareth, the atmosphere and the programs of the College provide the conditions for the Community to be active and continually growing.

Consequently, Religious Education is explicitly taught and the curriculum is designed and implemented within the context of Catholic values and attitudes. The curriculum of Nazareth College offers a variety of experiences and is focussed on providing students with a rich spiritual and educational experience where they will be successful, engaged and purposeful learners.

Nazareth College, as a Christ-centered Community, seeks to provide not only a high-quality academic and vocational education, giving due emphasis to the fundamental literacy and numeracy skills required for both learning and life, but also a faith and values-based holistic education for our students. As a Catholic centre of learning, Nazareth College strives to provide a safe, respectful and nurturing learning environment where everyone's contributions are valued, explored and enacted. It is a Community where students are able to discover themselves and learn how they can achieve to the best of their ability and become valuable contributors in their communities. We endeavour to meet the spiritual, academic and wellbeing needs of all our students by placing great emphasis on Personalised Learning, Literacy and Student Wellbeing.

Nazareth College seeks to provide a genuine, safe and caring experience of Community, to encourage students to appreciate the intrinsic worth of who they are, to value diversity and treat each other with dignity, enabling students in turn to promote and respect the dignity of all. As a Christ-centred College based on gospel values, we strive to make a difference in the lives of individuals and in the wider community by challenging young people, through God, to find meaning and value in their lives and reach their full potential as compassionate, contributing, life-giving members of society who are highly skilled, informed, tolerant, open and just.

The six Houses of the College - Chisholm, Knox, Mannix, Mackillop, McCormack and McAuley - supplement the spirituality of the College. The Houses call to mind the charisms of their namesakes, encouraging the members of each House to explore how they too can live their Christian calling.



The College encourages students to live by the key core values of Faith, Wisdom and Knowledge to assist them to develop to the best of their ability and potential in all areas of life.

Nazareth College is honoured to be a co-educational Catholic school. In the current society in which we live, it makes sense for young people to be together in a co-educational environment during their formative adolescent years to best prepare them for their post-school life. Nazareth College aims to ensure that students, alongside the foundation skills of literacy and numeracy, are able to acquire the skills necessary for 21st Century learning, especially the four Cs of Critical Thinking Skills - Communication, Collaboration and Creativity. These skills will enable students to be flexible in their problem solving, have enhanced thinking abilities and a collaborative attitude to communication skills.

The College also emphasises personal and social development as fundamental values and requirements as well. This approach provides an educational opportunity for the full development of the person – intellectually, spiritually, socially, emotionally and physically. Nazareth College recognises and values parents as the first educators of their child and works in close partnership with families to develop young men and women to become constructive, responsible and compassionate members of society.

Our College Community is a place where the uniqueness and individuality of students and families is recognised and welcomed, and the human dignity of each student is promoted. Nazareth College by its nature and number, is a welcoming school where our students and families are known. Students, families and staff work together to ensure that each student receives the best learning and spiritual experiences.

Through learning and teaching in the Catholic tradition, Nazareth College creates a nurturing faith-centred and hope-filled Community, inspired by the teachings of Jesus when Faith, Wisdom and Knowledge are at the core of our aspirations. We continually strive to:

- Provide quality education in the Catholic tradition that challenges, supports and empowers students to explore and reach their full potential;
- Develop a connectedness and awareness of God in our lives and a Catholic **Faith** that is informed by scripture, tradition and the regional parish communities;
- Develop in our students a love of learning leading to great **Wisdom** and an abundance of **Knowledge**;
- Foster an inclusive and safe environment;
- Build authentic partnerships between the College, families and the wider community.

Nazareth College is a community of Faith, Wisdom and Knowledge where students and staff have a great understanding of, and commitment to, what it means to belong to a Catholic school and where Social Justice is an expression of our Catholic faith.

Our aim is to become the 'School of Choice' for our surrounding community. In doing so, we hope the College will continue to grow in Faith, Wisdom and Knowledge now and into the future.

Students at Nazareth College focus on what it means to be the Holy Family of Nazareth and take it upon themselves to help those in need and to do something that helps others.



Each year, our Community embraces an inspired message to live out our philosophy through a number of initiatives including staff and student formation, liturgical celebration, social justice community connections and opportunities to share in the life of the Church.

Some of these initiatives include:

- The flying of the National, Indigenous and College Flags at our College;
- Posters depicting Australian values;
- Singing of the National Anthem at formal school events;
- Recognition of important National days and Religious days such as ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, Easter, Feast of the Assumption, Advent, All Soul's Day etc;
- Social Justice Outreach Programs where we endeavour to live out our call to love and serve our neighbour including - Soup Kitchen, Nursing Home visits, Blood Bank, St Anthony's Tutoring, SCOPE, Building Bridges;
- Catholic Schools Youth Ministry Australia (CSYMA) at the Senior years. This enables our students to minister to younger levels and to our Parish Primary Schools to lead Reflection and Sacramental Preparation Days. This helps our students more deeply know the Catholic faith, to be able to share it, and build a connection and commitment to it;
- Our St Vincent de Paul College Conference is a place where students actively live the faith, by helping people in need. Students are able to more fully understand the link between Social Justice and the Catholic faith through the sharing of the faith as the source of such action;
- Daily Prayer, Thanksgiving prayer, weekly Mass, Whole School Mass, staff Mass;
- Reflection Days;
- Communal prayer helps us as we endeavour to place the person of Jesus Christ at the very centre of our Community;
- To reflect its broadening focus, The Nazareth College Community Association (NCCA), in conjunction with the College Wellbeing team, introduced the concept of termly 'Conversation Corners' for parents. These evenings have enabled the Nazareth Community to share Wisdom and Knowledge with each other relevant to themselves as parents of teenage children;
- The partnership between students in our VCAL Pathway and SCOPE continued to enrich the lives of our Applied Learning students with regular visits by students and staff to the Missionaries of Charity Men's Refuge in Fitzroy;
- The number of students involved in our Mini Vinnies group continues to grow. The food collection presented to representatives from St Vincent de Paul by our Mini Vinnies at our Mass for Social Justice and the number of students who take part in our Winter Sleepout are testament to the well developed social conscience of the Nazareth Community;
- Development of Social and Emotional Learning Programs for students during Extended Pastoral Sessions to improve the wellbeing of the school community - Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is a priority at Nazareth College and is continuing to be integrated into all areas of curriculum. Social and Emotional wellbeing is recognised as fundamental to success in learning and life;



- Wellbeing is the total climate of pastoral care arising out of the action taken by the College to promote and enhance student wellbeing of a personal, social, physical, emotional, mental and spiritual nature. Key elements of student wellbeing are positive self-regard, respect for others, positive relationships, responsible behaviours, personal resilience and engagement with learning, all of which are covered in SEL;
- The theological virtue of Hope and the Christian call to forgiveness are central aspects of the Catholic faith and two things we are working on across the board with our student management through Positive Behaviour Support and restorative practices;
- We have seen the development of the Student Voice Team, providing opportunities for deeper reflection and input into the life and decisions of the College;
- Cultural Inclusion Team is aimed at celebrating our rich multicultural community and further developing the unity within our Community;
- A co-owner of the DREAM (Dandenong Regional Education Alliance Model) Centre at Chisholm TAFE Dandenong. One of the great advantages of our association is evident in the many students undertaking VET courses as part of either VCE or VCAL studies which enables them to explore their individual strengths and potential;
- The Year 9 City Learning research project that takes place over four weeks and builds teamwork, initiative, collaboration and research skills;
- Year 9 STEM course and the innovative inter-school collaboration of the LitSTEM program;
- A range of activities and opportunities for students to shine and flourish in Faith, Wisdom and Knowledge outside of the classroom including success at Eisteddfod by the Bay, SIS Teen Chef, International Youth Silent Film Festival, Dante Alighieri Italian Poetry and so much more – Each of these diverse programs caters for the individual needs of our students;
- Our Community centred on Faith, Wisdom and Knowledge is a success precisely because of our strong sense of community: the partnership between staff and parents to support our Nazarene students as they strive to explore the outer reaches of their abilities in continual search for new skills and knowledge.

## Review

This document will be reviewed within three years of the date of issue.

Principal: Mr Sam Cosentino

Signature:

Date: June 2020