Strategic Plan

2015 - 2017

SAINT ALBERT’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, LOXTON
VVISION

St Albert's Catholic School provides a Christian education setting and operates under the charism of the Dominican tradition. Our school was established on Erawirung land.

CORE VALUES

St Albert's is committed to providing a quality education and preparing students to be successful learners within a rapidly changing world. At St Albert's we recognise the importance of teaching the students entrusted in our care about values. Our Core values underpin the management and teaching practices in our school community and we strive to live these out in our day-to-day interactions with others.

- Respect - valuing ourselves and other people
- Honesty - being true to yourself
- Trust - being trustworthy
- Pride - taking pride in everything we do
- Support - being there for each other

OUR STORY

St Albert's convent and school was officially opened in 1956 with an enrolment of 74 primary and 6 secondary students. The original school building, consisting of two large rooms was built of Mt Gambier stone and is still in use today.

The convent accommodated six Dominican nuns who came from the Mother House of Cabra at the request of Bishop Gallagher. The Dominican sisters continued to serve St Albert's until the end of 1980 when they found it necessary to withdraw their services completely.
The Parish appointed their first lay Principal (Mr Arthur Paar) in 1981.

The School has made every effort to keep pace with changing needs and educational developments. To cater for changes, as well as for increasing numbers, all buildings have been upgraded and additional buildings have been added.

Our school logo was designed by student Grace Seiboth in 1998. The cross symbolizes our Dominican tradition: the blue water of the River Murray: the gold for the cereal crops grown close by: the grapes and oranges for the vineyards and fruit blocks around Loxton: the sun not only for the sunny days we enjoy in Loxton but also for the love of Jesus watching over us.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. FAITH AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

   St Albert’s Catholic Parish & School work collaboratively to be the bearers of Good News to one another and the wider community. Our Faith is the source of inspiration to our experiences.

   - Create closer links and shared experiences with the Parish of Our Lady of the River.
   - Celebrate and rejoice in the milestones – St Albert’s Catholic School turns 60 in 2016.
   - Re-define our school values; what do they really mean?
   - To explore and better understand what it means to educate in the Dominican tradition.
   - Develop and maintain an outdoor Sacred Space.
2. **TEACHING AND LEARNING**

*We value academic achievement and will continue to support students to achieve excellence through inquiry and challenge-based learning. Our teachers are supported with ongoing professional development to continue to provide quality teaching and learning.*

- Continue to enhance our ongoing and sustained focus on Literacy.
- Be conversant with the Australian Curriculum and its connection to Secondary pathways.
- Ensure each child understands how they learn best and is equipped with the skills to sustain life-long learning.
- Promote an active and healthy lifestyle; the key drivers for happy and resilient children.
- Review reporting process and procedures within the school with a view to making our ‘product’ timely and one which supports the school-home partnership.
- Shape Behaviour Education policies which uphold the ideals of natural consequence and restorative practice.
- Explore ICT options as a means to support digital fluencies in and out of the classroom.
- Attract, retain and develop staff of the highest calibre.

3. **COMMUNITY AND CULTURE**

*To provide a welcoming, accessible, vibrant, family-oriented, community-minded school through relationships and partnerships with local, national and international communities.*

- Increase ‘word of mouth’ as a marketing tool by better informing the community about School achievements, initiatives and success.
- Promote the good image of the School in all that we do, including agreed social media platforms.
- Be active and present to our community through a variety of initiatives.
- Aim to be the ‘School of choice’ in the Loxton community.
4. RESOURCE OPERATIONS

To maintain and consolidate the School’s financial sustainability and capacity to cater for the educational needs of our children as outlined in the Strategic Plan.

- Continue to explore opportunities which enhance communication lines between families and the School.
- Develop a functional program of maintenance for Grounds, Information & Communication Technologies and General Infrastructure.
- Improve the strategic location and importance of Little Albees with a view to creating an Early Years / Junior Primary Precinct.
- Allocate appropriate resources to resurface or upgrade hard-court play areas such as the COLA and the main oval.
- Develop and implement a 5-year financial plan.
- Develop and implement a 3-year annual improvement plan.

Saint Albert’s Catholic School, Loxton
Educating in the Dominican tradition since 1956