



IRENE McCORMACK CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Prayer Service Justice

Strategic Plan 2016-2020



Our Vision

*To liberate young people to become life-long learners
and to live meaningful, selfless and spiritual lives.*



Our Story

Irene McCormack Catholic College was established in 2000 by the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia in response to an increased demand for Catholic education in the rapidly growing north western corridor of Perth, Western Australia.

The College is owned by the Archbishop of Perth who, together with the other WA Bishops authorised the Catholic Education Commission lead Catholic schools as a means through which the Church proclaims the Gospel of Jesus and to support parents as the first educators of their children.

The College was named in honour of Sr Irene McCormack. The College started with 30 students in 2002, in small, temporary premises close to the planned school site on Bradman Drive, Butler.

As the suburb of Butler and surrounds continued to develop, the College has grown in 2016 to student enrolment of almost 1,000 students, with 100 staff.

The College motto 'Prayer Service Justice' is strongly exemplified in the person and life of our patron, Sr. Irene McCormack.

Our Vision

To liberate young people to become life-long learners and to live meaningful, selfless and spiritual lives.

Our Mission

We recognise each person as a unique creation of God and nurture students to live the Gospel values.

Our College provides a holistic learning environment where each student feels safe, valued and learns respect for self, care for others and skills for life.

The essential consideration of all we do at Irene McCormack Catholic College is the dignity of the individual.





Our Three Core Values

Respect for Self

A spiritual understanding of individual worth as taught by Jesus Christ. The challenge is for each person to:

- Explore, recognise and share their strengths and talents.
- Arrive at an appreciation of their own uniqueness.
- Develop confidence and a resilience to embrace the challenges in life.

Care for Others

A sense of the Christian purpose to care for all people. This is developed through the:

- Pastoral Care program that supports each student's personal and educational development.
- Christian Service Learning program which enables each student to experience the value of service to others.
- Leadership opportunities to serve others by College representation, Parish participation, peer-support mentoring, tutoring and public relations.

Skills for Life

For students to graduate from the College and live each day by the College motto 'Prayer Service Justice', our focus centres on young people to:

- Develop their own relationship with Jesus and sense of faith practice.
- Seek social interaction and accept social responsibility.
- Appreciate creation and value environmental sustainability.
- Develop a sense of connection to family, friends, society and the global community.
- Be energetic and enterprising learners who become inquisitive, independent and collaborative learners.
- Access technology as a productive tool to seek and utilise knowledge.



Key Outcomes

Catholic Identity

Discipleship is our calling.

We are committed to deepening our relationship with Jesus.

1. *Faith Practice*

To ensure the College community fosters spiritual nourishment of faith practice through:

- Spiritual enrichment for students and staff.
- Active membership of the St Andrew's Parish Community.
- The Sacramental program.
- The collaboration with CEWA and Brighton Catholic Primary School in being effective promoting the presence of Catholic Education in the growth areas north of Butler.

2. *Authentic Catholic School*

As a College continuing to develop as an authentic Catholic School based on the rich tradition of Catholic Education in Western Australia and the unique narrative of Sister Irene McCormack we recognise the dignity of each person through experience of the Gospel values by the:

- Discovery of new ways to share Irene's story.
- Enrichment and extension of the Christian Service Learning program.

3. *Religious Education Program*

To ensure that students value and are engaged in Religious Education to experience the fullness of life by focusing on the connection between faith, life and culture. This is enhanced by the:

- Development of the Religious Education curriculum.
- Provision of rich learning resources.

4. *Signs and Symbols of a Catholic Community*

As a visual observance of being a Catholic Community develop:

- Increased exposure to Catholic signs and symbols.
- Further experiences of sacred space.



Key Outcomes

Community Engagement is essential.

We are committed to Catholic Education's mission through relationship with all.

1. *Wider Partnerships*

To provide rich learning experiences for students and to maintain the reputation as a school of choice, the College strives to develop relationship with:

- The St Andrew's Parish.
- Our Indigenous Peoples in the spirit of Reconciliation.
- Industry and Business.
- The local community.

2. *Engagement with Parents*

The College strives to become a flourishing faith and learning community. The College supports parents to enrich student experiences by:

- Enhancing communication with family.
- Providing opportunities for parents to engage with curriculum issues.

3. *Alumni*

As the history of the College develops, the story is enriched by the engagement with former students.



Key Outcomes

Education

Learning is what we do. We are committed to learning at every level.

1. Enhance Student Performance

The College continually strives for students to increase engagement in their own learning through the:

- Raising of all levels of academic achievement.
- Consolidation of Teaching and Learning Programs.
- Utilisation of learning resources including elearning resources.
- Review and refinement of off-campus learning experiences.

2. Professional Growth of Staff

To foster staff engagement in learning by the:

- Expansion of the staff mentoring program.
- Facilitation of faith and professional growth experiences.



Key Outcomes

Stewardship

Accountability is not optional.

We have personal and collective responsibility for our College's success.

1. *Student and Staff Well Being*

Increase the understanding of our individual and collective responsibility for the College's Catholic Education mission through the:

- Contribution to the decision making process.

2. *Catholic Enrolment*

Ensure inclusivity for enrolment of the vulnerable, poor and marginalised as a visible sign of our faith in action by:

- Effectively promoting the presence of Catholic Education in the fast growing areas immediately north of Butler.
- Providing enrolment of the vulnerable, poor and marginalised in our community.

3. *Responsible and Just Financial Planning*

Ensure good governance and the resource allocation required to fulfil our mission as a faith filled and learning community through the:

- Development of a 5 year Financial Plan.
- Preparation of a 10 year Capital Development Plan.
- Maintenance of resources, including ICT infrastructure.





Irene McCormack grew up as a fairly typical West Australian country girl. Born on 21st August 1938 she was raised on a farm at Trayning near New Norcia and very early on emerged as a vibrant, determined and fun-loving girl. She went to boarding school at Santa Maria College and it soon became evident that she had two great loves - to serve God and to educate young people. After joining the Sisters of St. Joseph she spent many years teaching in schools in country areas. She constantly challenged the Bishops to act more justly in providing resources for country children. For Irene it was an issue of justice.

In the mid-1980's Irene experienced a real dilemma with her vocation. She continually proclaimed about mission in the Church to be an active part of the Global church and felt she had to volunteer to work with the most needy in order to be true to herself.

Irene arrived in Peru in 1987 and was appointed to the Huasahuasi District in 1989. She took up the challenge of ministering to the impoverished, "I have come to understand that effective action is a way of loving".

For political reasons Communist rebels, the Shining Path, did not welcome missionaries and despite recognising the danger, Irene and her fellow sisters continued to work with and for the village people, "I really believe and have experienced that the more committed you are the freer you are".

On 21st May 1991 Irene's fears were realised when she and five others were dragged to the village square by the rebels and told to lie face down. Irene was executed by a shot to the back of her head.

Irene's 'crime' in the eyes of her murderers was caring for, working with and handing out Caritas food parcels to the impoverished villagers.

One of the ways Irene lives on in our College community is that her family members attend school events during the year.

