

## Strategic Plan 2014–2018

### Our Story

Villanova College is an independent Catholic school for boys in Years 5 – 12, under the care of the Augustinian Order. Established on the north side of Brisbane in 1948 by six Irish Augustinians, the College relocated in 1954 to its present site at Coorparoo.

The campus is home to the original house in the area, Langlands, built by Reuben Nicklin in 1884. The College's sporting fields are situated on Manly Road, Tingalpa, approximately 20 minutes by car from the Coorparoo campus. Annually the College provides Catholic education in the Augustinian tradition to about 1230 boys.

### Our Heritage

Like the Order that traces its origins back to the life of St Augustine, the College promotes St Augustine's ideal of community in which the members strive to be 'of one mind and heart on the way towards God'. The community includes present and past students, staff and parents. The fundamental work of the College is one of education within community. Augustinian education is characterised by a search for knowledge and understanding that is integrated with personal experience, the truth of which is tested by the 'inner teacher' or presence of God within each person.

An integration of knowledge is essential in building a firm foundation for personal and spiritual life, as well as a basis for professional and social life. As an Augustinian school, Villanova is part of an international network of Augustinian schools, universities, parishes and provinces. The College enjoys an enriching cultural exchange of ideas and friendships between staff and students in Augustinian communities located in many different countries.

### Our Values

Education in the Augustinian tradition values the search for knowledge and understanding so that one's life is based on truth. Such searching is best accomplished through the development of a love of learning. In the words of St Augustine, "The love of knowledge and truth should invite us to continue learning." At Villanova, love of learning is founded on the Augustinian values of:

**Interiority** – the inner process by which the truth of what is taught is tested by the 'teacher within' i.e. the presence of God within each person.

**Search for Truth** – the quest to discover both the truth of what is taught, and a commitment to live out the truth of what is learned.

**Community** – the context within which teaching and learning takes place and the beneficiary of the teaching and learning that occurs.

At Villanova these are known as 'gateway values' because they present points of entry or portals into a rich field of attributes which are the hallmarks of Augustinian education – friendship, hospitality, humility, solidarity with the poor, participation and shared responsibility.

### Our Context

The Catholic education landscape in Australia is undergoing significant evolution and change at the present time. While church attendance and affiliation remains at low levels nationally, the demand for enrolments at Villanova is increasing annually. The placement of Year 7 within secondary schooling in Queensland in 2015 will see the College's enrolments increase from 1200 to 1260 students approximately. The introduction of an Australia-wide Curriculum across all years of schooling is of particular significance. Rapid developments in digital learning environments challenge teachers to maintain pedagogical renewal. The recent completion of a major building project has realised the development and establishment of three distinct yet inter-related school precincts within the College.



1948



1984



2014



## Our Mission

*Villanova College seeks to educate young men  
as they pursue learning within the context of the Catholic faith  
in a community comprising parents, staff and students past and present,  
who strive to be “of one mind and heart on the way towards God”*

*(St Augustine)*

## Our Strategic Plan

The Strategic Planning process is integral to achieving the College's vision and mission. Villanova has adopted a five-year strategic planning cycle. Development of the 2014 – 2018 Strategic Plan has taken place under the close guidance and coordination of the College Council, Principal and Leadership Team. Input from students and parents, past and present, as well as that of staff has resulted in the establishment of goals to be achieved over the next five years.

Drawing on a vision of 'Three Schools, One College', the Strategic Plan 2008 – 2012 realised the establishment of distinct yet inter-related physical precincts for each of the three schools, together with major advancements in the Evangelising Community Project and Digital Community Project. There remains much to be done as the College continues its endeavour to adapt the experience of schooling to the ages and developmental needs of students in the three schools.

The Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018 builds on the achievements of the recent past in setting challenging yet achievable goals for the future. The goals are presented according to five broad dimensions of College life, four of which are drawn from the previous plan. The dimensions are: *Faith & Community, Teaching & Learning, Pastoral Care, Co-Curricular Life, Resourcing the Future.*

## Our Implementation Strategy

The goals of the Strategic Plan will be accomplished via a number of projects and activities to be undertaken over the five-year period. Progress of the projects and activities will be monitored by College Council through a series of Annual Action Initiatives. With the support and assistance of parents and past students, and in collaboration and partnership with staff, the College Leadership Team is responsible each year for:

1. Development of Annual Action Initiatives, endorsed by College Council, which identify the activities to be undertaken during the year and the goals of the Strategic Plan that they will address
2. Implementation of the Annual Action Initiatives
3. Evaluation of the effectiveness of Annual Action Initiatives in achieving the specified goals of the Strategic Plan
4. Reporting to the College Council and community on the evaluation of the Annual Action Initiatives

Towards the end of the five-year strategic planning cycle, the evaluation reports on the Annual Action Initiatives will play an important role in the College's strategic planning review and renewal processes. The College Master Plan will support and assist the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan, particularly those associated with *Resourcing the Future.*

*“The love of knowledge  
and truth should invite  
us to continue learning”*



# Our Goals

## Faith & Community

As an Augustinian Catholic school, Villanova aspires to be a learning community that:

1. Seeks, as part of the wider Church, to live the Gospel of Jesus through modelling Augustinian 'gateway' values – interiority, search for truth, community
2. Promotes and supports the faith formation and personal spirituality of all – students, staff, parents and old boys
3. Expresses its Catholic identity through celebration, liturgy, ritual, sacrament and prayer
4. Practises a commitment to social justice for all

## Teaching & Learning

As an Augustinian Catholic school, Villanova aspires to be a learning community that:

1. Engages boys in challenging and purposeful education that adapts and responds to the particular needs of each boy
2. Supports teachers in their ongoing improvement and professional development in teaching and learning practices based on authentic Augustinian pedagogies
3. Develops and implements an academically challenging and socially relevant curriculum for the 21st century
4. Enhances student learning and teacher pedagogy through constructive and consistent use of student behaviour, performance and assessment data

## Resourcing the Future

As an Augustinian Catholic school, Villanova aspires to be a learning community that:

1. Preserves and consolidates the College's future as an Augustinian school in 21st century
2. Continues to develop and integrate the role of the College Council's governance of the College
3. Seeks to diversify and consolidate its present income streams and sources
4. Promotes and practises environmental stewardship and sustainability

**“Of one mind  
and heart  
on the way  
towards God”**



## Pastoral Care

As an Augustinian Catholic school, Villanova aspires to be a learning community that:

1. Maintains positive, harmonious, respectful and just relationships between all its members
2. Fosters the active engagement of students, staff, parents and old boys in their own personal growth and development
3. Expresses its commitment to our Augustinian values through development and implementation of a comprehensive *Social & Emotional Learning Program*
4. Continues to grow and deepen its commitment to *Restorative Practices* as a pastoral response to rebuilding relationships which have been damaged by conflict or wrongdoing

## Co-Curricular Life

As an Augustinian Catholic school, Villanova aspires to be a learning community that:

1. Provides opportunity and encouragement for all students to nurture and develop their God-given gifts and abilities
2. Encourages generosity of spirit in placing one's talents and abilities at the service of the common good of the College community
3. Promotes co-operation, teamwork, sportsmanship, striving for personal excellence and a humble pride in one's authentic efforts and achievements

**“The Strategic Planning process is integral to achieving the College's mission...**

**Input from staff, students, parents and past students has resulted  
in the establishment of goals to be achieved over the next five years.”**

## *Selected References & Links*

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