



SCHOOL INFORMATION

PO Box 123, Terang, VIC 3264 ☎ (03) 5592 1925 ✉ principal@stterang.catholic.edu.au

www.stterang.catholic.edu.au

VISION STATEMENT

INSPIRED BY CHRIST,
TOGETHER WE
LEARN & GROW

MISSION STATEMENT

INSPIRED BY CHRIST AS OUR TEACHER WE WILL:

- Live out our Catholic beliefs, values, traditions and practices.
- Nurture the development of each individual.
- Encourage our families to actively participate in the life of St. Thomas' Parish.

INSPIRED BY CHRIST TO FOSTER LEARNING AND GROWTH WE WILL:

- Recognise the value of staff and their contribution to the education of each child.
- Respect the dignity of each member of our school community, promoting self-esteem, hope and a positive vision for the future.
- Recognise and cater for a range of learning styles, abilities and talents.
- Provide an engaging and challenging curriculum.
- Maintain a welcoming, safe and secure learning environment where individual achievements are recognised and celebrated.

INSPIRED BY CHRIST, AS A SCHOOL COMMUNITY, TOGETHER WE WILL:

- Create a child-safe and child friendly environment where we have zero tolerance to child abuse.
- Respect one another and support each other to make a difference in the world.
- Promote practices which protect and sustain our environment.
- Encourage each other to live in faith and hope.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

ST. THOMAS' SCHOOL IS A UNIQUE COMMUNITY. IT IS A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY FOCUSED ON THE PERSON OF CHRIST. OUR SCHOOL PRESENTS CHRIST TO THE STUDENTS WITHIN A CATHOLIC VIEWPOINT WHILST BEING WELCOME TO OTHER FAITH TRADITIONS CHRIST IS THE TEACHING CENTRE - THE MODEL ON WHOM THE CHRISTIAN CAN SHAPE THEIR LIFE.

St. Thomas' School is also an educational community steeped in tradition and inclusivity. As such it aims to develop core skills and progressively open minds to embrace diversity and teach inquiry and critical thinking. We aim also to support and supplement the efforts of parents to provide an education, which will prepare each child for his or her full participation in a Christian life within the 21st century.

We strive to educate the whole child – spiritually, intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically in a safe, happy and secure environment. We act on the basis that learning is ongoing and life-long and encourage the students through the use of learning intentions and success criteria to become effective self-managers and self-monitors of their learning. It is a priority for our community of staff, students and parents to interact with one another in a spirit of pastoral care and mutual respect so that the greatest possible growth can take place.

OUR STORY

ST. THOMAS' IS SITUATED IN A RURAL FARMING COMMUNITY, APPROXIMATELY 215 KILOMETRES SOUTHWEST OF MELBOURNE. IN 1907 ST. THOMAS' BEGAN UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SISTER'S OF MERCY WHO CONTINUED TO LEAD THE SCHOOL UNTIL 1987. THE MERCY CHARISM OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT ARE STILL STRONGLY UPHELD.

St. Thomas' enjoys the close support and involvement of families in the life of the school. There is close cooperation between school and home with strong, caring relationships between staff, students and parents.

Staff members are actively involved in school and community life. The school is a vibrant element of Parish Life, including staff involvement in Parish Ministries and on Parish Leadership Groups.

St. Thomas' School contains six classrooms, an art room, a library, computer laboratory and an administration centre, all contained under the one roof. The enclosed under-cover area provides a venue for learning and play activities, assemblies, performances and special functions. Outside the school features two ovals/grassed play areas, an extensive adventure playground, two netball/basketball courts and a sandpit. The children have an abundance of space and a variety of equipment and activities to participate in.

CURRICULUM

AT ST. THOMAS' WE PRESENT A DIVERSE, INTERESTING AND COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM BASED ON THE VICTORIAN CURRICULUM AND FRAMED WITHIN THE PRINCIPLES OF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES (PLC). THESE PRINCIPLES ARE;

- 1. Student learning focus:** School improvement starts with an unwavering focus on student learning.
- 2. Collective responsibility:** For every child to achieve, every adult must take responsibility for every child's learning.
- 3. Instructional leadership:** Effective school leaders focus on teaching and learning.
- 4. Collective efficacy:** Teachers make better instructional decisions together.
- 5. Adult learning:** Teachers learn best with others, on the job.
- 6. Privileged time:** Effective schools provide time and forums for teacher conversations about student learning.
- 7. Continuous improvement:** Effective teams improve through recurring cycles of diagnosing student learning needs, and planning, implementing and evaluating teaching responses to them.
- 8. Evidence driven:** Effective professional learning and practice is evidence based and data driven.
- 9. System focus:** The most effective school leaders contribute to the success of other schools.
- 10. Integrated regional support:** Schools in improving systems are supported by teams of experts who know the communities they work in.

It is recognised that parent/teacher expectations influence children's performance. Teachers at St. Thomas' School have extremely high and well-founded expectations of all children so that a positive attitude toward learning is created within each child. It is our intention to challenge each child to achieve his/her fullest potential in each area of the curriculum. All subjects/domains are taught using an Inquiry approach, which challenges children to engage in their interest, take risks and enhance their knowledge.





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