VISION STATEMENT

Inspired by Christ, together we learn and 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 STORY

The Catholic School is a unique community. It is a Christian community organised around the person of Christ. Our school presents Christ to the pupils and proclaims life with God. Christ therefore is the teaching centre – the model on whom the Christian shapes his or her life.

Our school is also an educational community, as such it aims to develop the basic skills, progressively open minds to the accumulated culture and teach 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.

We act on the basis that education is ongoing and lifelong. It is a priority for our community of staff, students and parents to interact with one another so that the greatest possible growth can take place.

Religious Education embraces instruction, values and attitudes. The home and school share in the development of these values and attitudes.

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. The Sisters remained in charge of the school until 1987.

St. Thomas’ enjoys the close support and involvement of families in school activities. There is a close co-operation between school and home, and a strong bond of friendship between staff and students.

Staff members enjoy close relationships and are readily involved in parish activities. The school is a vibrant component of parish life, including ministers of the word and Eucharist, and members of parish planning groups.
Here at St. Thomas’ we present a diverse, interesting and comprehensive curriculum based on the AusVELS which is the Victorian Learning Standards within the National Curriculum. It is recognised that parent/teacher expectations influence children’s performance.

Teachers at St. Thomas’ School have positive and realistic 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 integrated inquiry approach. Key concepts are taught across all subjects at the same time.

St. Thomas’ School is part of the Hampden Catholic Schools Network along with St. Patrick’s Camperdown, St Colman’s Mortlake and Mercy Regional College Camperdown and Noorat. The Hampden Catholic Schools Network was formed in 1990 to ensure the provision of quality Catholic Education from Grade Prep through to Year Twelve in this area. It operates three specialised groups which focus on Religious Education, Middle Years of Schooling (Years 5-8) and Special Needs. Network activities are a special part of our school curriculum, fostering P-12 Catholic Education and assisting our older children in their transition into Secondary Education at Mercy Regional College.
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