



**ST THOMAS' PRIMARY SCHOOL**

EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD

Excellence

Inclusivity

Truth

Compassion

Community

# EVANGELISATION PLAN

## 2015– 2019

*Development of the  
Whole Person*





## Mission Statement

### *'Educating the Whole Child'*

St Thomas Primary School is part of a faith community centred on the life of Jesus, as expressed in our motto,

### *'Together in Christ'*

Our vision is to create opportunities for our children to become loving individuals with the skills to willingly contribute to make the world a better place.

## School Values

St Thomas' seeks to promote the Gospel values with particular emphasis on respect for all. This is lived out through the following attitudes:

- Inclusivity
- Compassion
- Truth
- Community
- Excellence

The St Thomas' School Evangelisation Plan will be reviewed **annually**. Priorities have been established based upon student needs, staff capacity and resources. What realistically can be achieved in three years will be borne in mind at all times. The priority is in empowering students, parents and staff to participate in the life of the school.

### ***Signs of the Times:***

*"The 'signs of the times' are the genuine signs of the presence or the purpose of God as seen in the events, the needs and the desires of people today." (Mandate 2009-2015:4)*

**At St Thomas' Primary School a key SIGN OF THE TIMES** is the close link that the school maintains with the local parish and the school's founders, the Presentation Sisters.

### ***Faith, Culture & Life:***

*"To integrate faith and culture, students need to learn how to integrate faith and life. ...Teaching students to integrate faith into daily life means helping them above all to understand what is involved in Christian discipleship..." (Mandate 2009-2015:23).*

**St Thomas' Primary School demonstrates the integration of FAITH AND LIFE** in its presence as a is a faith-centred, family-oriented learning environment where students, their families and staff



have the opportunity to express their Catholic faith commitment through their relationships with each other and the Church.

## ***Witness:***

*“This is given through actions and words that reflect a Christ-like presence and a Christ-like love to others.” (Mandate 2009-2015:18)*

**At St Thomas' Primary School staff, students and their families strive to provide WITNESS** through being a living example of the presence of Christ in the world through participation in the school's evangelisation priorities.

The Church's mission, received from Jesus Christ through the apostles, is to proclaim the Good News of Salvation to every human being.

*‘Jesus Christ instituted his Church as the community of his followers, his Body in the world. He would be its Head, and all who believed and accepted Baptism would be his members. He gave his Church the mission of proclaiming his Gospel to every human person, and to baptise all who believed’*

*[Bishops Mandate para. 2]*

Catholic schools have a vital part to play in the Church's mission to the world today.

*‘Evangelisation is the mission of the Church... she must proclaim the Good News of salvation to all. To carry out her saving mission, the Church uses, above all, all the means Christ has given her... She establishes her own schools because she considers them as privileged means of promoting the formation of the whole person...’*

*[The Catholic School 7, 8]*

## **Mandate Letter to the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia (2009-2015)**

For a school to be Catholic, it must first be a good school. Otherwise it will be unable to fulfill its mission. With many other education traditions, the Catholic school's concept of education will be.

*‘The development of (students) from within, freeing them from that conditioning which would prevent them from becoming fully integrated human beings. The school must begin from the principle that its educational program is intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person.’*

*[Congregation for Catholic Education, 1977]*



The Catholic school, however, differs in a fundamental way from those of other education traditions. What makes it distinctive is its vision of the 'fully integrated' human being.

*The Catholic school differs from all others, which limit themselves to forming men and women. Its task is to form Christian men and women, and, by its witness and teaching, to show non-Christians something of the mystery of Christ, who surpasses all understanding.*

*[Congregation for Catholic Education, 1977]*

## What is Evangelisation?

Evangelisation is everything we do that introduces, promotes, develops and gives witness to faith. It means bringing into fuller consciousness and into the practical life of the school what we are really on about. To evangelise is to be willing to share the good news about God with others. Evangelisation is about taking the risk to care for all people, inviting them to share in a Christian community in which they come to know God more fully, and in which they form a deeper relationship with God so God becomes central in their lives.

Evangelisation is an activity of faith, built upon the power of the message. It achieves its purpose gradually, for people need to accept the message for it to have its full effect. Evangelisation is any deliberate activity or action by which we cooperate with the self-revealing God. It involves sharing, risking and achieving.

Evangelisation:

*'Cannot attain its full meaning and vitality unless it issues in witness, stirs wonder and leads to conversion. Modern people listen more willingly to witnesses than to teachers and if they do listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses'*

*[15, 21, 41, Evangelii Nuntiandi, 1975]*

Evangelisation is inclusive of Primary Proclamation (the process to assist others to arrive at an initial belief in Jesus and develop an initial interest in following Him) and Catechesis (processes for sharing the Christian experiences of God and integrating these into the person's life experiences). Evangelisation is primarily about Christian Witness.

As educators and as a Church we need to acknowledge the, 'joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties' (Gaudium Et Spes, 1) of the people we minister to. We need to acknowledge the current context or environment in which we live. These are the 'signs of the times,' and are needed to be continually worked with so that the Church and School Community embody the integration of faith, life and culture.

**At St Thomas' Primary School EVANGELISATION** is primarily expressed through our presence as part of a faith community centred on the life of Jesus, and expressed in our motto –



## ***'TOGETHER IN CHRIST'***

### **Link to Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) –**

101 Systematic Evangelisation Planning

102 Integrating Catholic Faith, Life and Culture

***To evangelise is to make Jesus central and to share His good news with others and enter into a personal relationship with Him. St Thomas seeks to evangelise by its members giving witness to Christ by sharing their experience of Christ and by helping build a life-giving Christian community.***

## **Philosophy of St Thomas Primary School**

St Thomas' School, Claremont, is a Catholic Primary School, established in 1909 by the Presentation Sisters. Today St Thomas' is a vibrant, single-stream, co-educational school catering for the families of St Thomas' parish and surrounding areas for students from Kindergarten to Year Six. The school is part of a strong and nurturing community and has an excellent reputation for providing a welcoming, involved and academically diverse environment for its students. The 'whole child' is nurtured, not only through a Religious Education and strong academic program, but also through extracurricular programs. Specialist teachers in Art, Science, Languages (Italian), Physical Education, ICT and Music, support the rich education available. St Thomas' implements the RAISE (Raising Achievement in Schools) initiative, focusing on improving outcomes in literacy and numeracy for all children. This includes an extension program. Reading Recovery and Extending Mathematical Understanding intervention are used for students requiring support. As expressed in our motto 'Together in Christ', the school thrives on a whole-school approach and commitment to collaborative processes, enjoying the excellent good will and support of the Parish Priest, School Board and Parents and Friends Association.

## **Aims of St Thomas Primary School**

St Thomas Primary School aims to foster the total development of each child within a caring and safe community that is totally committed to supporting the Catholic principles and ideals.



We strive to:

- foster children's faith in Christ so that they are able to become more like God;
- provide a total caring environment in which each child's dignity as God's creation is respected and developed;
- develop the parent's role in their children's education;
- provide enriched opportunities for each child to develop to their full potential - spiritually, academically, physically, socially and emotionally;
- affirm, respect and develop the individuality and God-given gifts of each child, staff member and school community member;
- respect and develop in each person the God-given gift of free will;
- provide opportunities for all children to develop culturally within their own environment and to understand, respect and embrace the cultures of others in our multicultural school;
- develop a staff community in which each person is encouraged to grow and develop in Faith for the benefit of themselves, the staff, the children and the wider school community;
- endeavour to work as a total school community in meeting the needs of each member.

## CATECHESIS

*Deepening of faith by sharing Christian understandings of God and integrating these into a person's human experience.*

*Catechesis is based on the teachings of Jesus and are found in:*

- *The Creed*
- *Life in Christ (following the example of Jesus)*
- *Sacrament*
- *Prayer*

*Mandate Para. 52-56*

FOCUS	SIGN	REFLECTION
<b>SYMBOLS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Each class to have a prayer focus area.</li><li>• Other spaces to have prominent crucifix or other appropriate symbols.</li><li>• The Bible having prominence in the classroom.</li><li>• "Sign of the Cross" and other gestures explicitly taught in classrooms and reinforced prior to Liturgy.</li><li>• School factions are linked to Evangelists symbols to understand the significance and history behind the names.</li><li>• Nano Nagle Icons in school.</li></ul>	



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FOCUS	SIGN	REFLECTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping alive the charism of the Presentation Sisters through classroom programs, visits and invitations to visit the school.</li> </ul>	
<b>LITURGY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All classes to participate in a Liturgical celebration each term as appropriate for their age group.</li> <li>• Each class to be responsible for planning a whole of school liturgy and/or Prayer Service.</li> <li>• All children &amp; families encouraged attending Sacramental celebrations.</li> <li>• Teachers provided with yearly Liturgical Calendar and information by APRE with feast days and important information. This will assist in developing an understanding of elements of the Liturgical Calendar.</li> <li>• Classes on a rotating roster to attend Parish Mass on Wednesday lunchtime.</li> <li>• Parish/School Community Commissioning Ceremony.</li> <li>• Diocesan Commissioning Mass.</li> <li>• Liturgies &amp; Prayer Services to commemorate special events and Feast Days:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ St Thomas the Apostle</li> <li>○ Presentation of Mary</li> <li>○ Mother's &amp; Father's Day</li> <li>○ ANZAC Day</li> <li>○ Reconciliation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Staff to attend School Sacramental celebrations.</li> <li>• Staff presence at Parish Children's liturgy.</li> <li>• Modelling and teaching reverence.</li> </ul>	
<b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff to teach Religious Education Units in similar sequence to reflect a co-ordinated school sacramental &amp; liturgical programme.</li> <li>• Explicit Planning and Teaching to explain the significance and meaning of rituals, prayers and church practices in all classes (information to assist will be provided by APRE)</li> <li>• Teaching and reflection of the meaning of Bible stories, The Ten Commandments, Easter and Christmas, especially with relevance to life today.</li> <li>• Religious Education Programmes taught by class teachers and supported by APRE and Principal.</li> <li>• Invitation for Parish Priest to support with RE programmes as required e.g. Talk to children in church about the significance of church elements.</li> <li>• Each class to participate in an excursion, which focuses on God as Creator (within the 3 year cycle of this Evangelisation Plan)</li> <li>• When children are on camp they will participate in a Paraliturgy or Prayer service</li> <li>• Literature &amp; related Gospel stories.</li> </ul>	



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FOCUS	SIGN	REFLECTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Whole School Plan of prayers that need to be taught at each year level. School Prayer Book to be written by APRE. This will be used by teachers, students and will be available on the school website to be accessed by parents and the community.</li><li>• Formal Prayer to occur in the morning, before lunch and at the end of the day</li><li>• Catholic Performing Arts Festival.</li><li>• RE Assessment Years 3 &amp; 5 – Analysis.</li><li>• Explicit teaching on the dignity of the human person in all aspects of school life.</li></ul>	
<b>SACRAMENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sacramental programme to include retreat and celebratory elements.</li><li>• Links to the Presentation sisters to be made through Sacramental Parent Information Nights</li><li>• Faith education for parents through child-parent workshops &amp; sacramental meetings.</li><li>• Parish based model where appropriate.</li></ul>	

## **PRIMARY PROCLAMATION**

*Raising religious awareness amongst community members through helping someone to arrive at an initial belief in Jesus, developing this interest and helping them to learn more about what Jesus taught through the Gospel*

*Mandate Para. 44-45*



## EXPRESSING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

WHEN	WHAT	HOW	WHERE	REFLECTION (QIS Survey)
School Year	Welcome Farewell Graduation Opening & Blessing of new buildings	Whole School Mass Blessing of school leaders Blessing of school leavers	School & Parish Newsletter During Parish Mass Liturgical Singing Class discussion Assembly/Gathering Church	
Church Celebrations	Ash Wednesday Assumption	Mass/Paraliturgy: Distribution of ashes	School Newsletter Class lessons/discussions	
Church Seasons	Holy Week Lent/ Easter Advent/ Christmas	School-based Paraliturgies Stations of the Cross Nativity Liturgies	School Newsletters School assembly/gathering Church School grounds	
Sacraments	Reconciliation First Communion Confirmation	Sacramental Commitment Parent Information Meetings Retreat Days Dedicated Mass Parish Reconciliation Dedicated Liturgy Parish based Sacraments (school supported) Strong parental involvement in sacramental liturgies.	School & Parish newsletter All classes follow Sacramental Program Units Liturgical Singing School Gatherings Parents of organising class involved in Liturgy	
Feast Days	St Thomas the Apostle Presentation of Mary Mary MacKillop St Patrick's Day	Whole school Liturgy/Mass School excursions/celebrations Promotion of Weekend Masses	School newsletter Parents of organising class assist	



WHEN	WHAT	HOW	WHERE	REFLECTION (QIS Survey)
		Class / school discussions/reminders		
Secular Celebrations	Mother's Day Father's Day	Whole school Liturgy/Assembly/Prayer Service	School newsletter Parents of organising class assist	

## CHRISTIAN WITNESS

*Our efforts to be Christ-like. It is our response to Jesus' calling to reflect our God.*

*Mandate Para. 35-40*

### FOCUS- LIVING OUR FAITH AS COMMUNITY

*Witness to harmony with God*

*Witness to harmony within*

*Witness to harmony with others*

*Witness to harmony with creation*

PRACTICE	WITNESS	REFLECTION
Environmental Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable practices in school community – school/class gardens, composting, worm farm, Environmental Student Ministry, Water Wise program, Waste Wise Program</li> <li>Traffic Management Committee – Walk &amp; Ride to School promotions.</li> </ul>	
Personal celebrations and events (birthdays, births/deaths/ awards)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gatherings.</li> <li>School Assemblies.</li> <li>Classroom.</li> <li>School Newsletter.</li> </ul>	
Integration of children with special needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Classroom practice.</li> <li>Special Needs Educational Assistant.</li> </ul>	



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PRACTICE	WITNESS	REFLECTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrated Support Services such as Speech, OT, Therapy Focus, CEO consultants.</li> <li>Individual Education Plans &amp; Curriculum Adapted Plans.</li> <li>Extension program.</li> </ul>	
Outreach: Parish/school links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fund-raising through Catholic charities such as LifeLink, Caritas, Catholic Missions &amp; SVDP. To establish a yearly plan for term fundraising priorities.</li> <li>Engagement with local community service programme, i.e. Romily House visits.</li> <li>Christmas giving to Romily House.</li> <li>Support of the Spirit of the Street Choir.</li> <li>Support Social Justice through RE Units.</li> </ul>	
Harmony Day / Reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whole school annual event.</li> <li>Annual Reconciliation celebrations.</li> <li>Cultural Immersion for example the teaching of Aboriginal Studies in the classroom.</li> <li>NAIDOC Week and Sorry Day recognition.</li> </ul>	
Mission Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Leaders to attend.</li> </ul>	
Performing Arts Opening Mass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student representatives with an interest in Music to attend.</li> </ul>	
Pastoral Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,2,3 Magic Behaviour management programme.</li> <li>School focus on Meditation for students. Teacher resources provided for teacher use by APRE.</li> <li>Effective buddy system.</li> <li>Pastoral Care Policy.</li> <li>Pastoral support for families in times of need through the pastoral outreach Programme.</li> <li>P &amp; F class co-ordinators.</li> <li>Leadership roles for Yr 6 students.</li> <li>Student ministries for all Yr 6 students.</li> <li>Provide access to Psychology and Counselling services as required.</li> </ul>	
Confirmation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation candidates sharing of their information on Christian role models and Saints with the school community.</li> <li>Confirmation candidates/school leadership.</li> <li>Christian service learning.</li> </ul>	
Opportunities to explore talents		



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PRACTICE	WITNESS	REFLECTION
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We share our gifts with the community they are promoted and recognised at School liturgies and Paraliturgies and other occasions such as choir visits in the community.</li> <li>Extension program.</li> <li>Student Leadership Ministries.</li> <li>Student Leader Awards.</li> <li>Teacher Awards.</li> <li>Excursions/ Incursions to school</li> <li>Music – Performing Arts.</li> </ul>	
Links/to Parish and Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informal visits to Church for prayer by classes.</li> <li>Paraliturgies and prayer services in Church.</li> <li>Class participation in midday Parish masses.</li> <li>Kids mass (Sat parish mass).</li> <li><b>Altar servers programme through Parish.</b></li> <li>Supporting Parish in Sacramental Programme.</li> <li>Involvement of Parish Priest in appropriate formation.</li> </ul>	

## FORMING OUR FAITH EDUCATORS

WHO	HOW
STAFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faith, Story &amp; Witness: all new staff members.</li> <li>Induction of new members to the school community.</li> <li>Clear Mission Statement, reviewed on a planned &amp; regular basis.</li> <li>Discussion of Catholic Education Issues – Study of the Bishops 'Mandate Letter'</li> <li>Provision of appropriate resources, such as church documents.</li> <li>Promotion of online resources, Catholic Library &amp; resource room.</li> <li>Staff encouraged to contribute to the Evangelisation Plan.</li> <li>Deepen understanding of Social Justice issues 'In Our Context' eg Reconciliation, Spirit of the Streets Choir, St Vincent De Paul Sleep-out, Social Justice speakers (Caritas, SVDP).</li> <li>Promoting further study.</li> <li>Promoting scholarships for further study and special courses.</li> <li>Encourage and support Accreditation: 'To Work, To Teach &amp; To Lead' in a Catholic School.</li> <li>Faith and theology focused professional development days.</li> <li>Meditation.</li> <li>Parish Priest invited to assist with staff development.</li> <li>Networking with other Catholic Schools.</li> <li>Staff Retreat (bi-annual).</li> </ul>



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<p><b>PARENTS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentoring and buddy programme.</li> <li>• Parent Teacher nights in Sacramental Years.</li> <li>• Promotion of all Masses and liturgies through newsletter.</li> <li>• School newsletter highlights Christian values, attitudes and beliefs.</li> <li>• Introduce 'Faith Corner' to newsletter (2012).</li> <li>• Invitation to Whole School liturgies, class liturgies and prayer sessions.</li> <li>• Invitation to Parish/class midday masses.</li> <li>• Exploration of Bishops Mandate Letter and Evangelisation Plan at School Board Meetings.</li> <li>• School website.</li> <li>• Promotion of Parish based programmes through newsletter.</li> <li>• Prayer at parent information nights.</li> <li>• Prayer at School Board and P&amp;F meetings.</li> <li>• Supporting formation of parents in Parish and on School Board, P &amp; F.</li> </ul>
<p><b>COMMUNITY</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication of school events through Parish newsletter</li> <li>• Parish pray for Sacramental students</li> <li>• Community events such as class sausage sizzle after Mass</li> <li>• Student readers from school at Children's mass</li> <li>• Fundraising</li> <li>• Links to Catholic organisations and community events.</li> <li>• School classes attend Wednesday Parish mass</li> </ul>



## St Thomas Primary

### School Prayer



**Jesus**

**Bless our school today**

**Bless everything we do and say.**

**Bless all those**

**who love us too.**

**And be our guide in all we do.**

**Help us to be kind and fair**

**and keep us in your loving care**

**AMEN**