STRA TE GY

Shining the light on our Catholic identity to shape and enhance the future.

In collaboration with the Theology Faculty, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium and other Queensland dioceses. The significant contribution of the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria in piloting this research is valued and recognised.

The Leuven Project
ENHANCING CATHOLIC SCHOOL IDENTITY

An innovative strategy to strengthen the Catholic identity in schools in the Archdiocese of Brisbane

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In this way, the results of the surveys provide a starting point for the exploration and subsequent development of strategies to enhance the Catholic identity of the school.

All policies and procedures regarding the whole of the school community will therefore be well informed by accurate data.

RESOURCES

Padua will be supported by the Brisbane Catholic Education Office, Formation and Leadership Team. Through hands on consultancy and guidance as well as web resources and direct communication with Leuven Catholic University.

For more information please contact the BCE Leuven Project link on the Padua College website or contact Michael O’Brien on 3857 9986.

CONTACT US

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BACKGROUND
Historically, Catholic schools in Australia were created through the vision, dedication, hard work and commitment of the whole Catholic community. Today, Catholic schools in Australia often find themselves challenged to express their distinctiveness, identity and vision as schools in a society where the Christian faith is increasingly marginalised.

To assist schools in facing these present realities, Padua College together with Brisbane Catholic Education Office has entered into a partnership with other Dioceses and the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

As part of Padua College’s Current Strategic Directions document “As One in 2016” the College aims to better understand how its Catholic identity is expressed in work and practice.

The Leuven approach offers strong theological underpinnings. From this base, the strategy aims to assess the Catholic identity of Padua College through the use of surveys and questionnaires. The data which then emerges provides schools with the information needed to understand the current context of the school, and inform future enhancement of Identity.

GOAL
The goal of this project is to assist schools as they endeavour to better understand how their Catholic identity is expressed in work and practice and to then support schools in their future development.

The main questions being explored:
• How is Catholic identity lived and shaped in the school (current reality)?
• How would the school like to see its Catholic identity expressed (preferred future)?
• What potential is present in the school to realise its preferred Catholic identity?

To meet this goal and to answer these questions, the involvement of school staff, students and their parents is required.

As part of our Strategic Directions, Padua College will engage with the data from their surveys to assess their Catholic identity and then explore the means by which this identity might be enhanced.

Participation in four online surveys and a profile questionnaire enables Padua College to gather responses from students, staff and parents.

SURVEYS

THE PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE
This is a short introductory set of questions designed to gather anonymous information about each respondent. This allows the results to be differentiated in terms of groups of respondents according to categories such as age, role, religion and practice.

THE POST CRITICAL BELIEF SCALE (PCB)
This assists schools in profiling and measuring the differing belief styles that exist among their Catholic education community.

THE MELBOURNE SCALE
This profiles the characteristics and response of the school as an institution in a pluralist context. The Melbourne Scale has two parts: Part A identifies how community members perceive the Catholic school responding to its pluralist situation (current); Part B identifies how the community would like the school to respond as a Catholic school (future).

THE VICTORIA SCALE
This explores the ways in which a Catholic school, in a multicultural and multi-religious society, manages the twofold challenge of defining its individual character as well as exercising solidarity with the broader community. Part A identifies how community members perceive the Catholic school responding to this challenge (current). Part B identifies how the community would like the school to respond as a Catholic school (future).

THE DOYLE QUESTIONNAIRE
This is a set of questions about relevant aspects of Catholic school identity that should be included in a thorough investigation of school identity and that may not be represented, or may be underrepresented, in other questionnaires. This is also in two parts.

PROCESSES
Who will be engaged in completing the surveys?
The surveys are conducted across the following groups in schools:
• Year 5 and 6 students
• Year 7 and 8 students
• Year 9 and 10 students
• Year 11 and 12 students
• School staff
• Parents and board members

Participating schools will be given online password-protected access to surveys.

Participants complete:
• Profile questionnaire
• Post-critical belief scale
• Melbourne scale
• Victoria scale
• Doyle questionnaire