



**2024  
2029**

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ST JOHN HENRY  
NEWMAN COLLEGE

# Strategic Plan





# INTRODUCTION

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The governing body of St John Henry Newman College was formally established in 2022. The school subsequently worked towards achieving accreditation from the Non-State School Accreditation Board (NSSAB), which was granted in early 2024. The vision for the school is to create a Catholic Classical school that caters to all year levels across multiple campuses, serving the Catholic community of Brisbane.

Classical education in the Liberal Arts is a movement that is gathering momentum internationally. For the last thirty years, what is known as the 'classical renewal' has been sweeping across the United States, with hundreds of schools now catering for tens of thousands of students. The board of SJHNC recognises the way that this form of education speaks profoundly to the affirmations of the Catholic Faith regarding such fundamental questions as what it means to be human, how are we to relate to God, and the purpose of education.

We are aware of the ever-increasing interest and demand for classical education in Australia, and specifically for us, in Brisbane. Multiple classical schools are appearing interstate, from Melbourne to Adelaide to Perth. Our commitment is to provide a classical option for Catholic parents who desire this form of education for their students. Our board, currently consisting of eight highly respected community members, from diverse backgrounds including engineering, property development, medicine, publishing and economics, together with our founding Principal, Mr Kenneth Crowther, is committed to the cause of a lay-led enterprise that meets the interest and demand of local Catholic families.

**Mr James Power**  
Board Chair





# Our Mission

*St John Henry Newman College exists to provide a Classical Education that immerses students in the Truth, Beauty and Goodness of God and His world, forming them in wisdom and virtue to become faithful Catholics prepared to contribute to God's work in the world.*

## Four Areas of Strategic Focus

1

TEACHING & LEARNING

3

INFRASTRUCTURE

2

STUDENTS & FAMILIES

4

CULTURE





# 1 | Teaching and Learning



## GOAL

To provide high quality classical Catholic education from Prep to Year Six

1. Focus on proactive **recruitment** of teachers that understand our pedagogical approach and philosophy of education. Draw on **existing networks**, including international candidates and recent graduates from Liberal Arts colleges.
2. Commit to **internal programs** up-skilling and training our teachers to become fluent in classical pedagogy and our education philosophy. Utilise online and in-person **Professional Development** programs, including those available internationally to ensure teachers are equipped to provide high-quality classical education.
3. Proactively **build a culture that loves learning together** by ensuring time in scholae as staff to read, reflect, and discuss great works and great ideas. Recognise the cultural impact of our founding staff members, and be **purposeful in staff selection** for the opening years of the College.



# 2 | Students and Families



## GOAL

To have a growing and thriving group of families and students that support the college's culture and actively promote it to their community.

1. Utilise the extensive **database** of interested parents to actively engage in enrolment discussions. Open expressions of interest in July 2024 at the school launch and receive **enrolment fees** for guaranteed places.
2. Budget with **smaller class sizes** in mind to support initial culture building and to allow for responsible financial management. Engage with parents and families from early-on to describe our school culture including supporting them in forming a family culture that corresponds with the school's intent to ensure alignment and supportive relationship between families and the school, recognising that the **parents are the primary educators** and home life matters for schooling participation.
3. Run **events** such as information evenings, public talks and support programs for parents to communicate the Newman College approach to teaching and learning.



# 3 | Infrastructure



## GOAL

To establish a sustainable, functional and beautiful site that supports the philosophy of classical Catholic education.

1. Engage an architect, project manager, and town planner for **Stages 1 and Stage 2** of development at the current St John Fisher Church site in Tarragindi, and submit the DA. Raise money to **self-fund Stage 1** to ensure sufficient infrastructure for starting in 2026 with GLAs for Years Prep - Three.
2. Apply for **BGA Master Plan** funding in August 2024 to develop campus master plan for a P-6 two-stream school. Engage a BGA consultant and in early 2025 apply for **BGA funding for Stage 2**, a Prep classroom and Flexible Learning Area.
3. Ensure that the school's philosophy of education and pedagogical practices are accounted for in the **design of teaching spaces**. Ensure consultants are aware of the importance of **beauty and tradition** in classical education, both in building design and landscaping.



# 4 | Culture



## GOAL

To purposefully form a culture that supports the Catholicity of the school and the classical liberal education paradigm.

1. Focus on building **a culture that understands the Catholic classical difference** and is intentional in contributing to this vision.  
Consider the **cultural implications of all decisions**, including staffing, school house names, uniform, curriculum design, and architecture
2. **Embed the faith** in all aspects of the school, with a specific focus on considering how the faith informs and impacts curriculum decisions.  
Prioritise daily mass, catechesis, the liturgical calendar, a sacramental program and feast days, incorporating these into the **daily rhythm** of the school.
3. Recognise that the culture is larger than the boundaries of the school, and invite the broader community of **parents and families to be part of the culture**.  
Ground the staffing culture in faith and the classical ideal of **'schole'**.



# CULTURAL PILLARS



Faith



Scholé



Learning



Tradition



Community



Ordo Amoris



EX UMBRIS IN VERITATEM

– Out of shadows into truth –

