



Governance Structure

Ratified: 2018 Review: 2022

Governance in a Catholic School

In Catholic schools in the Diocese of Ballarat, the school governing body is the canonical authority (governing authority) that has legal and canonical jurisdiction over the school. The governing authority has responsibility for authorising the governance structure and process for management.

At St Alipius Parish School the governing authority is Fr Peter Sherman.

People with Responsibility

St Alipius is a Parish Primary School in the Diocese of Ballarat and, as such, is governed and managed in line with Diocesan Policy informed by Canon Law.

The Governing Authority (Canonical Administrator) of St Alipius Parish School is the parish priest, **Father Peter Sherman**.

The Canonical Administrator employs a Principal and delegates authority and responsibility for the management of all aspects of the school to that principal. The principal works in collaboration with her staff team and school community to create and implement a Vision for the school community. They work together to ensure that the Catholic Culture, Learning and Teaching, Wellbeing, School Community and Leadership and Stewardship aspects of the school are developed through a well planned Strategic Plan and ongoing evaluation and review. The Principal of St Alipius School is **Eileen Rice**.

The Canonical Administrator and Principal employ a Deputy Principal to work collaboratively to enact the Vision and Strategic Plan. In the event of the Principal's absence the Deputy Principal will act as Principal and as such is a Person with Responsibility. The Principal of St Alipius School is **Roxanne Leed**.

St Alipius Parish School has a parent body that is advisory to the Principal and Canonical Administrator, the School Advisory Council (SAC). The Council has no formal responsibility for the running and management of the school but is vital in ensuring that the Vision and Strategic Plan are enacted. The Chairperson of this body is currently **Mark O'Brien**.

St Alipius Parish School has in place processes to ensure that Fit and Proper Person Statutory declarations are received from all people responsible for the operation of the School. The Principal is responsible to ensure that these documents are gathered and maintained on file. These documents are updated every three years and obtained by everyone with a key responsibility in the School.

The Chair of the School Advisory Council provides a Statutory Declaration at the time of accepting nomination to the role (generally at the November AGM of the year previous to taking on the role as Chairperson)

Should adverse findings or proceedings for conduct that would mean the 'responsible person' is not a 'fit and proper person', a 'notifiable disclosure event' is triggered. Such information will be communicated immediately to the VRQA, firstly through the Catholic Education representative, currently Bill Slatter.

The principal will make this notification unless the notification is in regard to the status of the principal when the governing authority, the deputy principal or the Chair of the School Advisory Council may make this notification.

School Advisory Council

At St Alipius Parish School, the School Advisory Council (SAC) supports the governing authority and principal in their responsibilities. It is an advisory council and not a canonical or legal authority; its role is to support the strategic directions of the school improvement plan. It does this through its contribution to school planning and policies and participation in activities that uphold the mission of Catholic education as expressed in the vision and mission statements of the school.

The SAC makes recommendations on policy and directions to the governing authority. The governing authority decides whether or not to accept these recommendations.

The SAC consists of:

Governing Authority (ex-officio member): Fr Peter Sherman

Principal (ex-officio member): Eileen Rice

Deputy Principal: Roxanne Leed

- Parent Representatives:
- Mark O'Brien (Chair Person)
- Theresa Watson (Secretary)
- Brett Holloway
- Tammy Sharman
- Claire Stewart
- Cameron Stevens
- Chenay Wilkinson
- Liz McCartin

The role and purpose of the SAC is outlined in St Alipius Parish School Advisory Council's Constitution Guidelines.