

PROSPECTUS

**PRIMARY
PRINCIPAL**

ST MARY'S SCHOOL COHUNA



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*We acknowledge and pay respect to the original and ongoing custodians of the land upon which our offices are situated.
We commit to actively working alongside First Nations people for healing, reconciliation and justice.
May we all stand tall, stand firm, grounded in truth, together as one.*



KATE FOGARTY

A message from our Executive Director

As Executive Director, it is my privilege to invite you to consider the position of Principal within the Sandhurst Diocese.

This is more than a leadership opportunity, it is a vocation that asks you to lead with courage, serve with compassion and contribute to the growth of our Catholic school communities across Central and North East Victoria.

Catholic Education Sandhurst is built on a strong, spirit-filled culture that we actively celebrate and strengthen through our shared commitment to faith, learning and community.

Stretching from the alpine mountains to the river plains, you'll find a network of 51 schools in large regional centres like Bendigo, Shepparton, Wangaratta and Wodonga, and in smaller communities where welcome is second nature.

Our shared mission is simple and strong: *Every Student, Every Teacher, Every School, Every Day.*

At the heart of this mission is Magnify Sandhurst; our flagship learning and teaching strategy.

Through Magnify Sandhurst, we are transforming education in our schools by grounding our practice in the science of learning, strengthening behaviour and wellbeing frameworks, and investing in the professional growth of our educators. It is a bold and hopeful vision, ensuring that every child is supported to reach their potential.

We look forward to meeting a new leader who is ready to walk with us, teach with heart, lead with vision, and magnify the potential of every learner in our care.

Peace and blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Fogarty', written in a cursive style.

Kate Fogarty
Executive Director
Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd

Guiding Lights



At Catholic Education Sandhurst, our executive team is committed to bringing to life the organisation's strategic plan – the foundation for all we do in service of our Catholic schools and early learning centres across the Diocese.

Our Guiding Lights vision illuminates this work. It ensures we are focused on what matters most for our Catholic learning communities: nurturing every student, empowering every educator, and strengthening every school.

Our three Guiding Lights are:

AUTHENTICALLY SANDHURST CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Sandhurst Catholic Education is living the missionary call to respond to the needs of our young people and our world with an ongoing and Gospel infused synodal process of encounter, deep listening, discernment and courageous action. In doing so, we acknowledge that individually and collectively, we are being called by a Loving God into better versions of ourselves. We seek to live and work in synod, knowing that our journey is more life-giving as we encourage, challenge and hold each other to account for our mission that all may have 'life to the full' (John 10:10).

OUTSTANDING LEARNER GROWTH

The Magnify Sandhurst project officially rolled out in the beginning of 2025. Together, the 3000 adults of our enterprise will be focused to improve the learner growth of each and every child.

Each of us has much to contribute to ensure the success of this work, and by working in concert, with common goals, common programs and common language, we're building a new way of being Sandhurst, a new way of educating young people, and a new way of ensuring that in our schools, students are always at the very centre of all that we do.

SOLIDARITY AND SUBSIDIARITY

Catholic Education Sandhurst's commitment to the Common Good requires further consideration and action so that the integrity of our ecosystem of educational centres is developed and improved. In 2025, we will continue the work of ensuring that our resources are stewarded with diligence and care, utilizing the strength of the whole to support the needs of the individual.



Magnify Sandhurst

Catholic Education Sandhurst rolled out *Magnify Sandhurst*, an evidence-informed, science of learning school improvement initiative, to its 51 Catholic schools across the Sandhurst Diocese at the beginning of 2025.

Magnify Sandhurst focuses on how the brain learns, how literacy is effectively taught, uses a low variance, knowledge-rich curriculum and the creation of positive classrooms. Our practice is calm, predictable, and repeatable to maximise learning time in all classrooms.

Magnify Sandhurst is deliberately bold and wide-ranging, generating whole-of-system improvement.

We have partnered with world-class organisations including LME Global, Ochre Education, Knowledge Society, Steplab and MultiLit.

Magnify Sandhurst aims to enhance learning outcomes through several key components:

STRUCTURED AND EVIDENCE-BASED LEARNING

Using the latest neuroscience and a structured, knowledge-rich curriculum, we ensure students build deep understanding.

A low-variance curriculum provides students with a consistent learning experience and reduces the amount of preparation and planning required by teachers, allowing teachers to focus on individual student needs.

MAGNIFYING LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Providing targeted support and resources to improve reading, writing, and math skills at all levels. Special focus on structured literacy in F-2 and sequential programs from Years 3-10.

INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING FOR TEACHERS

Each teacher receives a dedicated coach and program to learn and practice the best techniques to meet students' learning needs. We are investing in our teachers to provide the best possible learning outcomes for students in our Catholic schools.

CALM CLASSROOMS AND POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Promoting calm, supportive, and positive learning environments through common practices, expectations, and social norms, our work includes a new program for student social and behavioural learning. Our classrooms will have a consistent approach throughout each Sandhurst school to support all students to learn in a calm, orderly learning environment.



Cohuna, Victoria

Live, work, explore

Nestled on the banks of the Gunbower Creek and surrounded by natural bushland, Cohuna offers a peaceful riverside lifestyle with a strong sense of community and connection to nature.

Located along the Murray Valley Highway between Echuca and Swan Hill, Cohuna is a welcoming township known for its friendly locals, scenic waterways and relaxed pace of life.

The main street is lined with shops, cafes and local businesses, sitting just across from the water.

Weekends in Cohuna are made for the outdoors. Families and nature lovers can explore the nearby Gunbower National Park or State Forest, kayak along the creek, go fishing at Box Bridge or Kow Swamp, or enjoy birdwatching during spring nesting season.

The sandy shores of Cohuna Beach at Apex Park are a favourite local spot, offering BBQ facilities, a playground, and a welcoming place to cool off or catch up with friends.

With an active lifestyle, safe neighbourhoods, and access to healthcare, education and everyday essentials, Cohuna is an ideal place to raise a family, settle into regional life, or reconnect with nature.

Whether you're walking forest trails, paddling through the creek, or simply enjoying coffee by the water, Cohuna invites you to lead boldly during the week and unwind deeply on the weekend.



St Mary's Primary *at a glance*

St Mary's Primary School is a warm and welcoming Catholic school community located in the riverside town of Cohuna in northern Victoria.

At the heart of St Mary's is a dedicated team of educators and support staff who work in close partnership with students, families, parish and the wider Cohuna community to foster a nurturing and inclusive environment.

St Mary's School is part of the St Mary's Parish and maintains strong connections with schools across the Sandhurst Diocese, embracing opportunities to collaborate, share resources and grow together through initiatives such as Magnify Sandhurst.

There are 92 students across Foundation through to Grade Six, with a team of staff, including teachers, education support officers and administration officers.





Lead with purpose

The Principal of St Mary's Primary School is more than an educational leader, they are the heart of a close-knit community, guiding the learning, faith and wellbeing of almost 100 students in a nurturing rural setting.

As Principal, you'll lead a passionate team of educators, collaborate closely with parish and community partners, and champion the school's mission of inclusive, high-quality Catholic education.

You will play a key role in bringing the vision of Catholic Education Sandhurst to life – working alongside a diocesan network of school leaders, supported through *Magnify Sandhurst*, our diocese-wide commitment to evidence-informed teaching, professional growth, and student achievement.

Whether you're an experienced Principal or an aspiring leader ready for your first principalship, this position offers the chance to lead with purpose, serve with compassion, and grow alongside a connected and future-focused Catholic education community.

Key highlights of the role:

- Lead a small, values-driven Catholic primary school in a scenic riverside town.
- Inspire learning within a values-driven well-resourced and inclusive environment.
- Work closely with staff, families and parish in a genuinely connected community.
- Be part of a system-wide educational transformation through *Magnify Sandhurst*.

APPLY

All enquiries and applications will be kept strictly confidential.

Applications close on Monday 4 August 2025. Please ensure your application includes a cover letter, resume and a document addressing the key responsibilities within the position description.

For more details and to view the position description, visit www.ceosand.catholic.edu.au/principal-roles

APPLICATIONS CLOSE MONDAY 4 AUGUST 2025