

SANDHURST AWARDS CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA



Authentically Sandhurst

- Demonstrates deep commitment to collegial and professional relationships.
- Shows courageous innovation in response to community or educational needs.
- Actively contributes to a synodal culture of listening, discernment, and action.
- Models spiritual formation and encourages others in their faith journey.

Outstanding Learner Growth

- Evidence of measurable learner growth
- Implements programs that support academic, wellbeing, and spiritual development.
- Uses data and system resources effectively to improve learning outcomes.
- Advocates for equitable and responsive learning opportunities for all students.

Solidarity and Subsidiarity

- Promotes the Common Good through equitable access and shared resources.
- Empowers local decision-making while maintaining system integrity.
- Demonstrates accountability and responsiveness to community needs.
- Supports growth and flourishing across diverse learning centres.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

TEACHER/STAFF AWARDS

CATHOLIC MISSION AND FORMATION AWARDS

'Recognises individuals who embody the Gospel mission through spiritual leadership and formation'

Leadership Award

Catholic Mission and Formation LEADERSHIP Award Criteria:

- Models ongoing personal and communal spiritual formation.
- Integrates Catholic identity and values into daily practice.
- Leads faith development in students, staff and the local parish.
- Embodies synodality - deep listening, discernment, and Gospel-infused action.
- Inspires others to live out the mission of "life to the full" (John 10:10).

Teaching Excellence Award

Catholic Mission and Formation TEACHING EXCELLENCE Award Criteria:

- Demonstrates ongoing personal spiritual formation and growth.
- Has displayed outstanding capacity to prepare, embed and lead the Source of Life curriculum in the classroom.
- Positively impacts the student's learning engagement and outcomes.
- Inspires students to live out the mission of "life to the full" (John 10:10).

AWARDS CATEGORIES

TEACHER/STAFF AWARDS

CURRICULUM AWARDS

Honours those who ensure consistent, high-quality curriculum delivery across learning environments.'

Leadership Award

Curriculum LEADERSHIP Award Criteria:

- Leads curriculum that is coherent, sequenced, and knowledge rich.
- Ensures consistency in teaching and learning across classrooms to support equitable access for all students.
- Demonstrates a strong commitment to professional learning and collaboration that aligns curriculum and learning with system-wide goals.
- Uses data to monitor and improve curriculum effectiveness.

Teaching Excellence Award

Curriculum TEACHING EXCELLENCE Award Criteria:

- Has displayed outstanding capacity to prepare and embed the curriculum in the classroom.
- Ensures consistency in their teaching practices to promote equitable access to high-quality learning for all students.
- Is committed to professional learning and collaboration that aligns curriculum and learning with system-wide goals.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

TEACHER/STAFF AWARDS

LEADING LITERACY AWARDS

'Celebrates excellence in literacy leadership and impact on student outcomes'

Leadership Award

Leading Literacy LEADERSHIP Award Criteria:

- Leads a literacy and/or English program aligned to CESL priorities and the Instructional Model throughout their school.
- Builds teacher capacity in literacy instruction.
- Uses data responsively to inform literacy planning and intervention.
- Displays a commitment to professional learning and collaboration that aligns curriculum and learning with system-wide goals.

Teaching Excellence Award

Literacy TEACHING EXCELLENCE Award Criteria:

- Has displayed outstanding capacity to prepare and embed the Literacy/English curriculum in the classroom.
- Ensures consistency in their teaching practices to promote equitable access to high-quality learning for all students.
- Is committed to professional learning and collaboration that aligns curriculum and learning with system-wide goals.
- Uses data within their classroom to monitor and improve learning outcomes for their students.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

TEACHER/STAFF AWARDS

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AWARDS

'Recognises those who empower others through coaching and professional development'

Leadership Award

Professional Practice LEADERSHIP Award Criteria:

- Provides impactful instructional coaching that improves teaching practice.
- Leads the professional growth of others aligned with CESL priorities.
- Uses feedback and data to guide coaching conversations.
- Models lifelong learning and professional excellence through their leadership.
- Identifies leadership potential in others and provides opportunity for others to demonstrate leadership.

Teaching Excellence Award

Professional Practice TEACHING EXCELLENCE Award Criteria:

- Reviews own practice regularly and implements change in their teaching.
- Uses data and feedback to monitor and improve teaching practice.
- Obtains feedback from coaching opportunities to develop their own strengths and development needs.
- Works with a mentor or instructional coach to implement improvement strategies.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

TEACHER/STAFF AWARDS

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AWARDS

'Honours educators who create safe, structured, and engaging learning environments'

Leadership Award

Student Engagement LEADERSHIP Award Criteria:

- Establishes a school-wide inclusive, safe and positive learning environment.
- Leads initiatives that support positive behaviour and emotional wellbeing.
- Champions diversity and equity in classroom and school-wide practices.
- Leads the promotion of student voice and feedback in strategic decision making.
- Models positive relationships, healthy attitudes and respectful behaviours

Teaching Excellence Award

Student Engagement TEACHING EXCELLENCE Award Criteria:

- Establishes clear routines and expectations that support learning.
- Builds positive relationships with students.
- Uses proactive strategies to manage behaviour and promote wellbeing.
- Demonstrates consistency and responsiveness in classroom practice.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

TEACHER/STAFF AWARDS

ALLIED SERVICES AWARDS

*'Recognises excellence in operational leadership
and support of educational mission'*

4 Awards (total)

**Includes LSO Staff, Administration, Human Resources,
Information Technology, Finance, Maintenance.**

Award Criteria:

- Demonstrates innovation and efficiency in their area of work at a school.
- Aligns Allied Services practices with CESL mission.
- Supports equity and access through resource management.
- Builds collaborative relationships and shows respectful behaviours across schools and offices.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

SANDHURST CATHOLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION & CARE LTD AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN PEDAGOGICAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

*'Recognises excellence in those who demonstrate excellence
across teaching and learning'*

Award Criteria:

- Demonstrates a collaborative approach to leadership.
- Inspires a culture of continuous improvement.
- Focus on a holistic approach to children's development.
- Actively engages with teachers and educators to enhance teaching practices.

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

*'Recognises excellence in high quality teaching practices that support children's
learning and development'*

Award Criteria:

- Regularly reflects on teaching practices to improve effectiveness and outcomes.
- Introduces creative and research informed approaches to enhance learning.
- Adapts teaching strategies in response to children's cues, feedback and emerging learning.
- Demonstrates intentionality in the planning and delivery of learning experiences tailored to children's developmental stages, interests and needs.

EARLY CHILDHOOD VISIONARY EDUCATOR AWARD

*'Recognises an educator who exemplifies a deep commitment to
early childhood education'*

Award Criteria:

- Promotes play-based, inquiry driven and inclusive learning environments.
- Demonstrates adaptability and resilience in navigating educational change.
- Contributes to shaping the future of early childhood education through thought leadership.
- Engages with the wider community to enrich educational experiences.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

STUDENT AWARDS

INSPIRATIONAL STUDENT LEARNER AWARDS

PRIMARY & SECONDARY

Award Criteria:

- Actively engages in learning, sets high expectations for themselves, and perseveres through challenges.
- Demonstrates a love of learning by asking thoughtful questions, seeking feedback, and reflecting on their progress.

INSPIRATIONAL STUDENT LEADER AWARDS

PRIMARY & SECONDARY

Award Criteria:

Celebrates a student who leads with faith, courage, and compassion.

- Models Gospel values through respectful relationships, prayerful presence, and service to others.
- Demonstrates initiative, curiosity, and resilience in learning; inspires others to grow.
- Builds inclusive communities; leads with empathy, responsibility, and a commitment to the Common Good.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

VCE Student Growth Awards

Award Criteria:

These awards recognise an educator whose exemplary teaching, assessment, and student support practices have resulted in exceptional academic growth and high achievement among their VCE students. Through a commitment to excellence and a strong understanding of student needs, this educator has created a learning environment in which students not only meet but consistently exceed expected outcomes, demonstrating significant growth and outstanding achievement across the cohort.

Recipients of these awards are determined based on their class's overall learning achievement compared with VCAA predicted scores, as well as the final student results. One award will be conferred within each of the study design groupings published by the VCAA. No nomination or school action is required to determine the recipients of these awards. School principals will be informed of award winners in advance to allow invitation to attend the awards.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

SPIRIT OF SANDHURST AWARDS

In 250 words or less, explain how the nominee exemplifies the Guiding Lights in their school

LEADERSHIP AWARD

Honours a leader who inspires growth, collaboration, and system-aligned excellence.

SCHOOL STAFF AWARD

Recognises a staff member who models excellence in pedagogy, inclusion, and student wellbeing.

STUDENT AWARD

Celebrates a student who embodies the values of respect, inclusion, and active learning.