



Aquinas College

Strategic Plan 2024 - 2026

Vision: Educating Catholic Servant Leaders through Faith and Action

Mission: At Aquinas College, we dedicate ourselves to the education of students grounded in the Catholic traditions of hope, faith, and love, while honouring our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Our philosophy is to nurture a deep sense of belonging within a faith community that honours and uplifts each individual's identity. We inspire students to believe with reason, empowering them to realise their true potential and pursue personal excellence. We accompany young people to become Disciples of Christ, dedicating ourselves to developing servant leaders who positively influence the lives of others.

Our Touchstones

Family | Whānau

We grow an authentic sense of belonging when we show care, compassion and love to all in our community. We are called to love one another just as God first loved us. As a faith community, we belong to a Family that cares for us and provides us with a nurturing environment to grow.

Scholarship | Mātauranga

We seek personal excellence in all we do, realising that hard work and resilience are necessary to reach our true potential. The Touchstone of Scholarship is connected with our search for Truth. We must develop our ability to think, reason and understand to see God's fingerprint in creation. St. Thomas Aquinas gave us an excellent example of Scholarship in his devotion to faith and reason.

Truth | Pono

Jesus is the Truth we aspire to. He is our Truth and the model for us as disciples. The search for Truth is continuous by seeking a moral way to live our lives and ground ourselves in a set of values upon which we can base our whole being.

Service | Manaaki

Service is central to our mission and ministry as Christians. Jesus calls us to put the needs of others before our own, particularly those most vulnerable in our society. We are encouraged to recognise the face of Christ in others and respond to their needs through our understanding of Catholic social teachings.

Prayer | Karakia

We are called into a personal relationship with Christ through a life of Prayer. Jesus himself took time out to pray before anything he did. Through Prayer, we will grow and develop our personal relationship with our heavenly Father. Our Christian lives are a journey nourished by Prayer to support not just ourselves but those who journey with us.

Joy | Harikoa

Knowing Jesus intimately through a personal encounter is the Joy we all aspire to and connects us to the message of the Gospel. This Joy is known as Beatitudo, the Joy that can only be found in God. Putting our trust in God and focusing on Christ rather than our circumstances enables us to experience Joy even in times of hardship.





Aquinas College Strategic Plan 2024 - 2026

Navigating Our Future: Embracing the Waka Hourua Metaphor in Aquinas College's Strategic Plan – He Waka Eke Noa

At Aquinas College, we have charted our Strategic Plan using the waka hourua metaphor, symbolising a purposeful journey towards our vision. The waka hourua, a double-hulled canoe used by Māori ancestors for ocean voyages, serves as a powerful symbol. The first hull represents our unwavering Catholic faith, steered by the teachings of Christ. The second hull signifies our deep commitment to Mātauranga Māori, upholding the tenets of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This metaphor, embodying unity and balance, is pivotal in navigating our educational path. It affirms our dedication to a balanced and respectful educational approach that values both the spiritual guidance of our Catholic ethos and the rich cultural heritage of Mātauranga Māori.

The Kiato (crossbeams), representing our strategic objectives, play a pivotal role in the Waka Hourua. These kiato are not merely structural; they embody the harmonious blend of our Catholic Character and our commitment to Mātauranga Māori, symbolising the interconnectedness and balance of our guiding forces. This ensures that our voyage towards 'Educating Catholic leaders through faith and action' is steady and aligned.

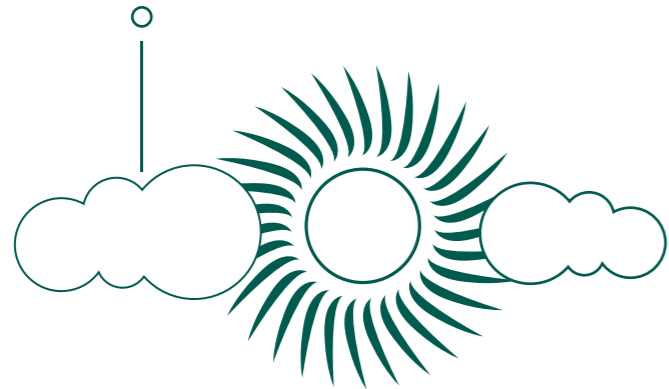
Te Kaupapa (the deck) serves as a representation of our Touchstones. Just as Te Kaupapa provides a stable surface for voyagers to stand and navigate, our values form the foundation upon which our college community stands and interacts.

Ngā Rā (the sails) represent the collective efforts of our staff, whānau, and community. These sails are crucial in propelling our educational journey forward, driven by teamwork and collaboration. They symbolise how our combined endeavours guide the waka towards our vision and the aspirations we hold for our graduates. The waka hourua then is not just a symbol of a journey but a lived reality of our college's school vision and mission in action.

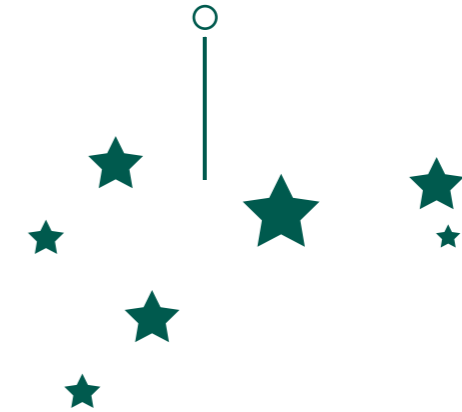
"HOLD FAST TO TRUTH"

"KIA MAU KI TE PONO"

Ngā tohu o te rā | Daytime guides – Data and Analysis



Ngā tohu o te pō | Night - Time guides – Stakeholder Feedback



Te kaupapa | The deck – Our Touchstones (Values)

Kiato | Crossbeams – Strategic Objectives

Te hau | The wind - Resourcing

Ngā rā | The sails – Core Functions / Our collective effort

Hiwi | Hulls – Catholic Character & Mātauranga Māori

Pae tawhiti | Destination – Vision and Graduate Profile aspirations



Our Commitment to Catholic Character

At Aquinas College, Christ is at the heart of all we do. We are committed to nurturing our community into a living relationship with Christ, fostering strong faith, deep spirituality, and a commitment to the service of others. Our Touchstones – Family, Scholarship, Truth, Service, Prayer and Joy– reflect our dedication to a holistic Catholic education that integrates faith into every aspect of college life.

Our Commitment to Te Tiriti

Aquinas College is dedicated to honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi, fostering a bi-cultural partnership that respects the mana of Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti. Our commitment is to actively engage with our community, guided by the aspirations of Te Tiriti and integrating Mātauranga Māori into our educational ethos. This approach not only upholds Te Tiriti but enriches our collage community with diverse perspectives and cultural responsiveness.

Kiato - Strategic Objectives

Empowering Every Learner

A commitment to ensuring that every learner achieves equitable outcomes and personal excellence within our Catholic educational environment. A strengths-based approach that nurtures a secure sense of language, culture, and identity of every learner. A responsive, rich, broad, and deep localised curriculum, implemented through adaptive and effective teaching strategies.

Links to Educational Priorities

Board Primary Objectives (1), (3), (4)
NELP (1-2), (2-3), (2-4), (3-5), (3-6)

Strategic Goals

1. Foster inclusive teaching and learning environments grounded in Catholic values to empower every learner.
2. Develop culturally responsive and adaptive teaching strategies.
3. Embed Mātauranga Māori throughout the curriculum.

Success Indicators

1. Evidenced embedded inclusive teaching practices mirroring our Catholic ethos.
2. Year-over-year improvement on measures of culturally responsive and adaptive teaching strategies.
3. Increase in curriculum content and resources related to Mātauranga Māori.

Educationally Powerful Partnerships

A commitment to establishing educationally powerful connections, fostering reciprocal relationships that enhance student learning and outcomes. An emphasis is on cultivating strong, collaborative connections, particularly with whānau, hapū, iwi, and our Parishes, ensuring our students are confident, connected, and actively involved learners, ready for future success.

Links to Educational Priorities

Board Primary Objectives (1), (2), (3), (4)
NELP (1-1), (1-2), (2-3), (3-5), (4-7)

Strategic Goals

1. Foster a culture of community collaboration, engagement, feedback and effective communication.
2. Strengthen connections with Māori, whānau, hapū and iwi.

Success Indicators

1. Demonstrated improvements based on stakeholder feedback and participation metrics.
2. Rich partnerships with Maori, whānau, hapū and iwi are mutually beneficial.

Tūrangawaewae

A commitment to cultivating a positive college culture, guided by our Catholic ethos and dedicated to upholding the principles of Te Tiriti. A focus on faith formation in a nurturing environment rich in respect, inclusion, and collaboration, where the well-being, mana and dignity of each person are held paramount.

Links to Educational Priorities

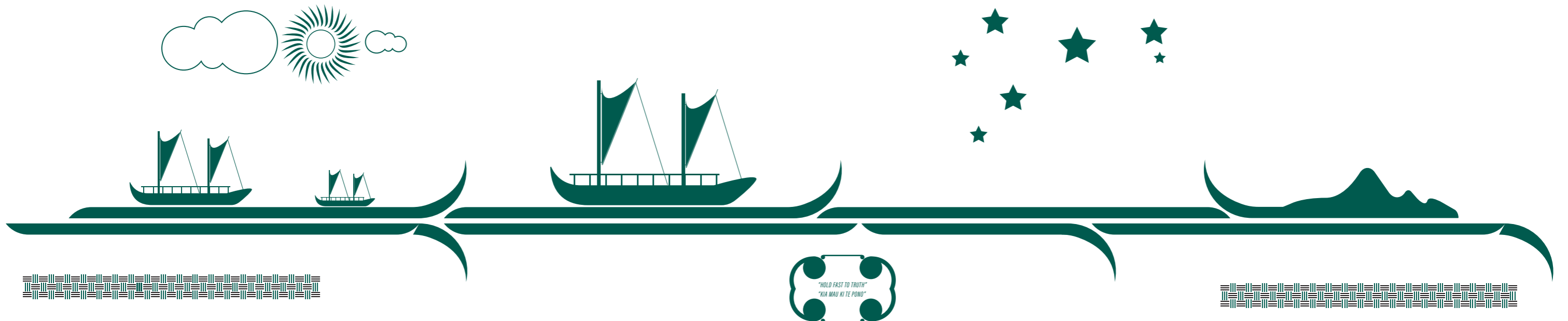
Board Primary Objectives (1), (2), (3), (4)
NELP (1-1), (2-3)

Strategic Goals

1. Deepen spiritual formation, Catholic identity and connection with Parishes.
2. Uphold and promote respect and dignity of every person.
3. Enhance cultural inclusion and belonging.

Success Indicators

1. Deepen opportunities to encounter Christ, strengthen partnerships with our parishes and increase visible Catholic identity markers in the school.
2. Foster and exemplify the behaviours we value, embodying our Touchstones to increase positive behavioural outcomes in our students.
3. Implementation of cultural events and programmes that celebrate diverse heritages.





Strategic Plan Development: Summary and Engagement Overview

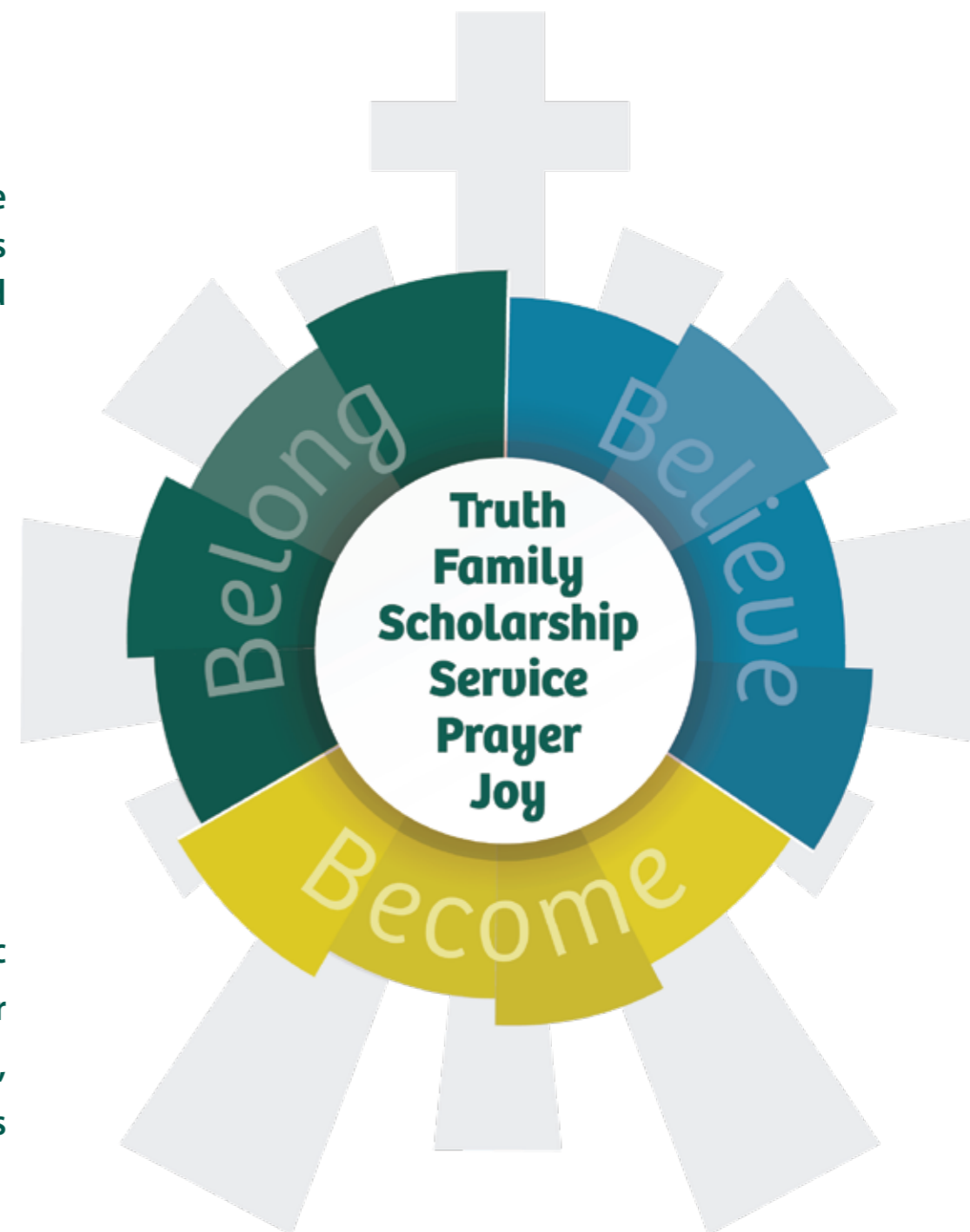
This Strategic Plan is the result of an extensive and inclusive consultation process that aimed to capture the diverse voices and aspirations of our Aquinas College community. Recognising that a truly effective plan is founded on the insights and needs of those it serves, we employed a multi-faceted approach to gather data and feedback.

Engagement Channels

1. **Whānau, Student, and Staff Voices:** We gathered rich feedback through structured online surveys.
2. **Focused Group Consultations:** Targeted engagement with the College's whānau group and our Kaumatua.
3. **Interactive Discussions:** Virtual and in-person sessions with whānau deepened our understanding of their views.
4. **Wider Community Stakeholder Input:** Inclusive online surveys captured wider community perspectives.

Synthesis and Prioritisation

From this engagement emerged key themes that reflect our community's vision. These themes informed our strategic objectives, aligning our goals with our shared aspirations. The priorities of the plan were determined based on their alignment with our mission, their anticipated impact, and the community's expressed values. Through this process, we have crafted a Strategic Plan that is both data-driven and community-focused, ensuring a united path towards "Educating Catholic Servant Leaders through Faith and Action."



[Summary of Community Consultation](#)

[NELP Document](#)

[Board Primary Objectives](#)

