



## SCHOOL GOVERNANCE TO BE REDEFINED

A draft model for future governance of parish schools has been proposed with the key themes being:

- Effective and consistent professional governance of schools
- Co-responsibility of leaders across parishes and Catholic education
- Solidarity and subsidiarity
- Ongoing engagement of priests in pastoral and religious ministry in schools

It is the right time to be considering a school governance model that suits the context now and that is sustainable into the future. A report, commissioned by the Victorian Association of Catholic Primary School Principals, has recommended a review of school governance.

[Audrey Brown, Director of Catholic Education made the following statement:](#)

*As a Catholic education community, priests, principals and Catholic Education Office staff in the Diocese of Ballarat have a deep commitment to approaching school governance in the spirit of co-responsibility. Clergy and lay people share this work because we understand the importance of having the right people and the right skills in service of our whole education community.*

*We have been working for some time on redefining how school governance looks across the parish primary schools in our diocese. Rigorous research and planning is currently being undertaken to design a governance model for parish schools that will serve them well into the future and that will not be burdensome for current governors and which frees priests for the increasing demands of their pastoral ministry. There is an openness amongst priests, principals, office leaders and parents for this work.*

*Many elements of governance are already delegated to the Director of Catholic Education, so that complex matters of compliance can be monitored and supported professionally and consistently.*

*The roles and expectations for principals, for priests who govern schools and for the Catholic Education Office are very clearly defined. Where a parish priest does not have the skills needed or is too stretched in his ministry to pay close attention to school governance, he delegates these responsibilities through a memorandum of understanding.*

