



## Board Director – St Columba's College, Essendon

### OVERVIEW

As a College under the Stewardship of Mary Aikenhead Ministries (MAM) St Columba's College is incorporated as a company and as such has a legal existence in its own right. The College functions according to its own Constitution and the corporations law.

The four Catholic girls' colleges under the Stewardship of Mary Aikenhead Ministries originally established by the Sisters of Charity are in the states of New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. These four secondary colleges serve the Australian community by providing high quality Catholic education within the wider context of Catholic education in Australia. St Columba's College is located in Essendon, Victoria.

Mary Aikenhead Education (MAE) Ltd, which is the sole member of each company, exercises its authority, rights and duties according to the MAE Ltd Constitution and Canon Law.

All those involved with Governance at St Columba's College are called to be co-workers in the ecclesial mission of witnessing and proclaiming God's reign.

### OVERARCHING GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

Governance refers to the actions of the College Board of Directors in establishing and monitoring the strategic directions of St Columba's College. Governance is to be distinguished from management, which is the visible way of responding to the educational, human resources, pastoral, technology, communications, finance and professional development needs of the College.

The authority of the Board in governance rests in its collective nature. No one Board Director can claim authority in his/her own right.

Effective governance begins with leadership, which is a process of empowering all to work together toward fulfilling the College Vision and Mission and improving the quality of life for all within the College community. The Board must be cognisant of employing participatory practices, of exercising shared responsibility for decision-making, and of developing positive relationships with the Principal and the St Columba's College Leadership Team.

### CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Constitution of St Columba's College describes the objects of the company and also outlines how the Board will conduct its business. The Constitution explicitly delivers duties and responsibilities to the Board, both as individual Board members and as a Board of Directors.

Each College company has the following objects:

- (a) to carry on or assist in the carrying on and promotion of the charitable activities of Mary Aikenhead Ministries in connection with Catholic education
- (b) to provide, within a Catholic environment, education of a high standard
- (c) to create an environment for all staff members to act having regard to the Mary Aikenhead Ministries Ethical Framework
- (d) to promote programs of and to provide a working environment for staff development and appraisal by means of teaching, continuing education, training activities and other means consistent with Catholic education standards and values
- (e) to co-operate and collaborate with other Mary Aikenhead Ministries schools and with other entities furthering the mission of the Catholic Church in education and other services

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>(f) with the prior approval of the Member to establish or dissolve other not-for-profit entities to be or which are controlled by the company.</p> <p>(g) to enter into a lease with MAEL which will record the grant of the right to the Company to use the land upon which the College is located.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>KEY AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY</b></p> <p>The St Columba's College Board must ensure that the objects of its Constitution are met. The key areas of responsibility derived from these objects can be broadly categorised into four areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mission and Vision</b> – the Board must ensure that the MAM vision, mission and spirit and the tradition of the Sisters of Charity are promoted and upheld in the education of young women and in all College activities;</li> <li>2. <b>Catholic Identity</b> – the Board must affirm, support and promote the Catholic identity of the College and ensure that the religious and general education of its young women is grounded in Gospel values and the traditions of the Catholic Church;</li> <li>3. <b>Governance and Stewardship</b> – the Board must ensure the good governance of the College, including meeting its legal and financial requirements and exercising stewardship of College resources;</li> <li>4. <b>Board Performance</b> – the Board must display due care in the performance of Board work.</li> </ol> <p>In addition, each Director is a collaborator in the MAM educational mission. Directors contribute their expertise, experience and creativity in order to sustain and continually renew the life of the College, and as such will have their own individual roles and responsibilities.</p> |   |
| <p><b>Mission and Vision</b><br/>The Board will:</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ensure that the vision, mission statement and strategic plan of the College animate the mission of Catholic education and the vision, mission and values of MAM;</li> <li>– Ensure that, in the spirit and tradition of MAM, the College is enacting a 'preferential option for the poor' within and beyond the college community;</li> <li>– Engage in ongoing formation and professional learning experiences that facilitate a contemporary and distinctive understanding of the charism of the Sisters of Charity and the mission and vision of MAM.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Catholic Identity</b><br/>The Board will:</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Ensure the College's continuing commitment to exemplary Catholic education that is grounded in Gospel values and the traditions of the Catholic Church;</li> <li>– Ensure that the College supports and collaborates with the Catholic education authorities and other colleges in its diocese and state;</li> <li>– Attend and engage in forums and professional learning experiences about issues, policy developments, changes and challenges in education (public and private, state and national), particularly those matters that have direct bearing on the religious and general education of young women.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Governance and Stewardship</b><br/>The Board will:</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Understand and fulfil the expectations and requirements of the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries (TMAM) as specified in the Constitution, the Matrix of Responsibilities and MAEA and TMAM policies, protocols and guidelines;</li> <li>– Plan the College's future and monitor its strategic plans/directions;</li> <li>– Establish and seek TMAM's approval of the College annual budget, ensuring that it serves and resources the College's educational needs and strategic directions;</li> <li>– Approve the College's enrolment and fees policies and ensure that each is responsive to students and families in the school and local community in need of assistance;</li> <li>– Understand and fulfil its legal and financial responsibilities, in particular, maintaining oversight of the College budget; obtaining annual audits of the college's finances; and submitting Annual Financial Statements to ACNC (incorporating the auditor's and Directors' report);</li> <li>– Understand and fulfil its legal obligations and responsibilities to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) by ensuring it maintains ongoing entitlement to registration, notifying the ACNC of relevant changes, keeping required records, reporting to the ACNC annually, and complying with the ACNC governance standards. The standards relate to the purposes and not-for-profit nature of a registered entity, accountability to members,</li> </ul> |

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   | <p>compliance with Australian law, the suitability of responsible persons and the duties of responsible persons;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Recognise and manage College risks to persons, finances, assets and reputation;</li> <li>– Support and provide counsel to the Principal and members of the College Leadership Team;</li> <li>– In collaboration with TMAM, oversee procedures associated with the appointment or re-appointment of the College Principal and make recommendations to TMAM on this matter;</li> <li>– Oversee procedures associated with the appointment or re-appointment of the college Senior Leaders such as Business Manager, Deputy Principal/s and Religious Education (RE) Head/Coordinator;</li> <li>– In collaboration with MAEL, oversee the formative and summative review processes for the College Principal and, subject to whether the appraisal is a formative or summative review, either endorse, approve or recommend for TMAM approval or endorsement the Review Reports (commendations and recommendations) and potential re-appointment, as appropriate;</li> <li>– Approve and oversee senior leader(s) recruitment/selection processes and appointment and assess and endorse Summative Review Report(s) and subsequent achievements;</li> <li>– Ensure succession planning for the Board and the induction/orientation of new Board Directors;</li> <li>– Attend and engage in forums and professional learning experiences that advance and strengthen understanding of College Board governance and stewardship responsibilities.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Board Performance</b><br>The Board will:   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Maintain confidentiality in relation to Board issues and decisions;</li> <li>– Understand the role of Board Directors as distinct from the role of management;</li> <li>– Act and speak collectively as a group;</li> <li>– Authorise the Chair to have a particular leadership role within the Board;</li> <li>– Encourage and support College events and be a presence in the College community;</li> <li>– Establish sub-committees or working parties, as required, to handle strategic priorities of the college (e.g. finance, building, marketing and community development);</li> <li>– Uphold the policies, protocols and guidelines established by TMAM;</li> <li>– Review and evaluate its own operations on a regular basis and its contribution to the achievement of the College’s mission, vision and strategic direction.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Individual Directors Roles and Responsibilities</b><br>A Director:   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Takes seriously the work of the Board and attends to this work in and between meetings;</li> <li>– Recognises the authority that rests in the Board Chair to establish and follow systems of accountability for the Principal, the Company Secretary, the leadership team, MAEA and TMAM;</li> <li>– Builds working relationships based on mutual respect amongst Board members, the Principal, the Company Secretary, the leadership team and the College community;</li> <li>– Is conversant with the Constitution and the MAEA Policy and Procedures Manual, following the requirements outlined in these documents;</li> <li>– Ensures the successful running of each Board meeting by attending to agendas, minutes, starting time, length of meetings and meeting protocols;</li> <li>– Reflects on and celebrates the identity and achievements of the Board and the College on a regular basis;</li> <li>– Attends and engages in forums and professional learning experiences that advance and strengthen understanding of governance and stewardship responsibilities;</li> <li>– Supports College events and is a presence in the College community;</li> <li>– Participates in evaluation of the Board’s achievements and overall performance.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Commitment to Child Safety</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A demonstrated understanding of child safety;</li> <li>– A demonstrated understanding of appropriate behaviours when engaging with children;</li> <li>– Familiarity with legal obligations relating to child safety;</li> <li>– Be a suitable person to engage in child-related work.</li> </ul> |   |

**RISK AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Board Directors will:

- Act at all times in compliance with legislated health and safety practices;
- Contribute proactively to discussions and decisions relating to the identification, mitigation and/or elimination of risk, and ensure compliance with appropriate legislative, statutory and CEV accountabilities.

**Background & Qualifications**

- Commitment to the education ministry of the Catholic Church, particularly as it pertains to the education of young women;
- Significant experience and skill in leadership in Catholic education or other areas relevant to, or necessary for, the governance functions of the College Board;
- Willingness and ability to support and promote the Vision, Mission and Values of St Columba's College and of Mary Aikenhead Ministries;
- Hold a current Working with Children Check while serving as a Board Director;
- Undertake or have a recent National Criminal History Police Record Check;
- Hold or being willing to gain a Director ID Number.

**Skills & expertise** in one or more of the following fields:

- Accounting or finance, with a recognised qualification in the field (e.g., CPA, CA, CFA) and demonstrated understanding of financial analysis, budgeting, forecast and reporting principles;
- Governance and Policy serving on corporate or government boards with demonstrated understanding of reporting and governance principles and frameworks. Familiarity with regulatory standards and risk management practices;
- Risk Management with demonstrated experience in strategic risk management, audit, governance frameworks, regulatory standards and risk management practices;
- Philanthropy with a wide experience in fundraising, community and industry engagement and philanthropic and marketing networks;
- ESG – Environmental Social Governance with demonstrated experience in the development and implementation of environmental policies and procedures and sustainability assessments or research;
- Education and vocational training with demonstrated experience in education policy, teaching models and learning frameworks, strategic thinking and innovation.

**Conditions**

**Tenure:** Three-year appointments with the option for a second three year appointment.

**Remuneration:** All Board roles are Pro-Bono roles.

**Appointment:** The appointment of St Columba's Board Directors is approved by the Directors of Mary Aikenhead Education Limited (MAEL).

DATE: APRIL 2025