

Position	Principal
Location	St Mary's College, Gunnedah
Closing date	23 August 2025
Reports to	Director of Schools
Enterprise Agreement	NSW and ACT Catholic Systemic Schools Principals 2024
Base salary range (Full-time)	\$191,863 - \$201,961 gross per annum (in accordance with the Enterprise Agreement)
Relocation Assistance	Reasonable relocation assistance
Motor vehicle	A motor vehicle will be provided for the successful applicant.
Employment type	Full-time (1.0 FTE)
Employment status	Negotiable 2-5-year Principal contract (renewal subject to successful performance)

About St Mary's College, Gunnedah

St Mary's College Gunnedah is a Catholic co-educational secondary school serving the Gunnedah region in North-West NSW. With a population of around 430 students, St Mary's provides a holistic Catholic education in a caring and stimulating environment following the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy who founded the College in 1879.

St Mary's College Gunnedah has always had a strong academic focus with many students progressing to university studies. An active Vocational Educational and Training program has also provided students with a successful pathway into apprenticeships and traineeships.

Cultural pursuits have always been a part of St Mary's College and the band and choir prove very popular with students and parents. A comprehensive sporting program provides students with an opportunity to excel, representing the College at the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges (CCC) and State levels.

St Mary's College is located in Gunnedah, situated in the heart of the Namoi Valley on the Oxley Highway and is approximately 450 kilometres from Sydney, 310 Kilometres from Newcastle and 655 kilometres from Brisbane. Gunnedah has a growing population with approximately 12,700 people residing in the Shire, which includes 5 outlying villages. There are currently 10,000 residents living within the Township. Gunnedah Shire covers an area of 5,092 square Kilometres including Gunnedah as the hub. Outlying villages include Curlewis and Breeza to the southeast, Carroll to the east and Tambar Springs and Mullaley to the southwest.

For further information on the school, please visit <https://stmaryscollege.nsw.edu.au/>

Position Purpose

The Principal is the religious, educational and organisational leader of a Catholic School within the Diocese of Armidale. The Principal provides leadership and exercises prudential stewardship of the Catholic School. The Principal is ultimately responsible for the Catholic identity and ethos, curriculum and effective management of the school.

The leadership and direction provided by the Principal will be consistent with;

- The message of Jesus and the Gospels
- Catholic Church teachings, principles and values
- Armidale Catholic Schools policies and directives
- Armidale Catholic Schools Catholic Principles and Values
- Armidale Catholic Schools Mission and Vision Statement
- Armidale Catholic Schools Strategic Directions
- Armidale Catholic Schools policies and practices including ACS Non-Negotiables of a Catholic Professional Learning Community and ACS Living Well Learning Well Student Support Framework.

Commencement

The start date for this position is negotiable. However it is anticipated that the new Principal will commence no later than the start of the 2026 school year.

Key Responsibilities

Duties related to the position would normally include but are not limited to the following:

Key area	Task
Leading mission and evangelisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promotes and articulates the Armidale Catholic Schools Vision and the Mission of Catholic Education.• Promotes and articulates Armidale Catholic Schools Catholic Principles and Values• Promotes the faith and theological formation of staff.• Facilitates ACS Living Well Learning Well policies and procedures.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes preferential options for the poor and marginalised. • Witnesses to and is active in a parish. • Promotes partnerships with the parish and diocesan communities. • Facilitates the development and implementation of the school's Religion Program. • Nurtures the Catholic life of the school and the integration of beliefs and values. • Fosters the Catholic ethos and identity of the school community, integrating beliefs and values into all facets of school life and learning. • Develops right relationships based on Christian values. • Makes an appropriate contribution as a member of the wider Armidale Catholic Schools education community. • Nurtures partnerships with Parish, Deanery, Diocesan communities and Church agencies
Leading teaching and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports and articulates a contemporary Catholic educational vision to the community with a focus on the student as a learner and person. • Supports the creation of a safe learning environment. • Promotes and embeds the Armidale Catholic Schools Non-Negotiables of a Catholic Professional Learning Community • Facilitates and promotes collective responsibility and accountability for students' faith, learning and wellbeing outcomes. • Supports the development of a contemporary, holistic, high-quality curriculum within Armidale Catholic Schools and legislative requirements. • Provides for diverse needs of students. • Facilitates and promotes appropriate assessment, reporting and evaluation processes. • Focuses on student learning achievements. • Develops a learning culture within the students and staff. • Promotes and facilitates effective pedagogy. • Promotes lifelong and life-wide learning. • Leads data-informed decision making to ensure quality learning and teaching outcomes.
Developing self and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works in close collaboration with other Leadership Team members to form an effective team. • Engages in ongoing learning to keep abreast of contemporary educational issues. • Establishes processes to develop the well-being of staff and students. • Engages in succession planning and developing leadership potential. • Supports and mentors staff.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assists Leadership Team members with annual Goal Setting and Performance Reviews. • Develops a culture of reflection, self-review and improvement within the school. • Supports and fosters effective employee relations. • Promotes and nurtures a collaborative culture of leadership within the school, with regular leadership team meetings. • Communicates expectations to staff and provide support and guidance when necessary.
Leading improvement, innovation and change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes, implements and reviews the School's strategic directions aligned with the Armidale Catholic Schools strategic plan. • Promotes innovative ideas and practices. • Develops a culture of reflection, review and improvement. • Leads annual goal setting, implementation and review with teaching staff. • Leads the School Review and Improvement processes. • Coordinates the formulation and implementation of the School Annual Improvement Plan aligned with Armidale Catholic Schools Strategic Plan. • Facilitates and encourages quality change processes.
School Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures compliance with legislative and Armidale Catholic Schools policies and procedures including Child Protection, Code of Conduct and Workplace Health and Safety processes. • Manages staff and workplace practices effectively. • Arranges for appropriate delegation of tasks and the monitoring of accountabilities. • Complies with relevant legislative and system requirements. • Engages with staff, P&F and School Advisory Council • Ensures processes for the recruitment, selection and induction of staff comply with Armidale Catholic Schools and legislative guidelines. • Ensures budget processes and outcomes that model appropriate and sound stewardship practices. • Works with relevant Armidale Catholic Schools Office personnel to ensure the effective management of the school within systemic guidelines. • Ensures effective financial management. • Establishes effective communication and decision making practices. • Provides a leadership presence for the school community to promote and represent the school within the community. • Establishes systems for data and record management and retrieval. • Provides for appropriate risk management.
Engaging and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develops and maintains positive relationships with all

working with the community	<p>members of the school community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engages in processes to build community. • Promotes the development of good working relationships with the parish and wider community. • Meets frequently with key personnel within the community. • Promotes and represents the school within the community. • Promotes positive relationships between the school community and the Diocese through the Catholic Schools Office, Armidale. • Maintains an appropriate presence at school occasions and functions. • Communicates effectively and resolves issues in a positive manner. • Witnesses to community service and social justice.
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Armidale Catholic Schools reserves the right to alter roles and responsibilities and requirements as required.

Selection criteria

We invite expressions of interest from candidates who align with the following:

- Commitment to and practice of the Catholic faith.
- A minimum of five years successful experience as a primary or secondary Principal or Assistant Principal or an equivalent role in school system leadership or the tertiary sector.
- A contemporary leader with the demonstrated capacity to inspire a team; collaboratively develop strategy and culture, and manage change.
- An innovative educational leader that can clearly articulate a vision of learning and teaching that integrates Catholic values and care into the daily life of the school.
- A leader with outstanding interpersonal skills to build a vibrant parish school community.
- A leader who will work tirelessly to maximise students' learning and pastoral outcomes.
- An educational leader who will embrace the Armidale Catholic Schools vision and strategies for developing a Professional Learning Community in a Catholic context aligned with the Armidale Catholic Schools Strategic Plan.
- Hold professional qualifications:
 - An undergraduate education degree and relevant postgraduate degree qualifications in educational leadership, curriculum, theology or religious education or similar; and
 - Completion of or willingness to undertake appropriate post graduate courses in the areas of religious education or theology to meet accreditation requirements of Category E as per the [Catholic Schools framework for the accreditation of staff in Catholic schools](#)
- Be NESA accredited or be eligible to be accredited by NESA to teach in NSW

Further information

- Applicants who are successful in gaining an interview will receive an interview travel allowance.
- The successful applicant will possess a current Working With Children Check Clearance.

Application

For questions regarding the professional nature of this position, please contact Kate Kenny, Head of Employee Services on 0427 712 441 or Email:

kkenny@arm.catholic.edu.au

Before submitting your application, please ensure the following:

- You have carefully read the position description and ensure you understand the role you are applying for and that it is suited to your skills, experience and qualifications.
- **Complete the relevant online application form** by [clicking here](#) and attach a cover letter (optional) and CV that clearly outlines your qualifications and career history.

Preferred applicants must have the right to work in Australia and will be subject to employment screening.