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Globally recognised education innovators guide plan for Ballarat Diocese Catholic schools

Globally recognised Finnish educator [Professor Pasi Sahlberg](#) and Director of Future Schools Australia [Dave Runge](#) will work with Catholic Education Ballarat to advise and guide development of a strategic plan to shape directions for the next five years.

Professor Sahlberg, currently based at the University of Melbourne, is a former school teacher and Director-General of the high-performing Finland education system. He has advised schools and education system leaders around the world and been professor at UNSW Sydney and a visiting Professor of Practice at Harvard University.

As Director of Future Schools, Dave Runge has brought a passion for reimagining education to his work with educational organisations across Australia and internationally to build new systems and create innovative outcomes. He has deep expertise in change leadership, culture, and innovation.

Professor Sahlberg and Mr Runge will work with local school communities, diocesan leadership staff, and the DOBCEL Board, on the development of the plan.

‘Over the coming months we seek to shape a vision and plan that will guide our system into the future - an inspiring plan that is enriching, enabling, and grounded in our rich traditions,’ Catholic Education Ballarat, Executive Director, Tom Sexton said.

‘This is an exciting chapter in the history of our Diocese, as collectively we look to further ensure our young people, families, and communities are provided with the best possible education opportunities,’ he said.

The plan will be developed using principles of co-design, encouraging new ideas to emerge from those closest to the communities they serve.

Professor Sahlberg and Mr Runge believe the piece of work, in the context of further developing the capability of a regional system of schooling, will also be of interest to education authorities and policymakers, both nationally and internationally.

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