



## The 2021 Roger O'Sullivan Memorial Award for Family, School and Community Partnerships for Learning

This award is for a school community, including parents and carers, that can demonstrate exemplary practice in building partnerships between home and school to enhance the learning outcomes of students. These projects may focus on faith formation, the school curriculum, student wellbeing, or any combination of the three. At the heart of this award are family, school and community partnerships in which the family and community are authentically engaged.

Key definition: 'Family and community engagement' is defined here as:

**collaborative and intentional strategies** by Catholic school communities that recognise and build upon the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that exist within families and local communities to support students' learning in a Catholic school setting.

Key definition: 'Family school partnerships' is defined here as:

collaborative **relationships** and activities involving school staff, parents and other family members of students at a school. Effective partnerships are based on mutual trust, respect and shared responsibility for the education of the children and young people at the school.

More than 50 years of research tells us that family, school and community engagement improves student learning outcomes. The crucial aspect for parent engagement in this context is that parents and carers are **authentically engaged** in whatever learning is taking place.

Parent bodies and leaders from eligible Catholic school communities are invited to apply for the ROS Award by demonstrating how a **partnership-focused initiative** has enhanced student learning outcomes. The initiative must be an authentic parent engagement project. Ideally, it will have been parent-initiated, but this is not essential so long as parents have been collaborative partners and authentically engaged throughout the life of the project.

### Benefit for your school community

The award recipient will receive \$4,000 to support the further development of this project or initiative in addition to a trophy, framed certificate and a tailored publicity campaign.

2020 Award recipient St Joseph's Primary School received television, radio, newspaper and social media coverage. The publicity video was screened at the 2021 Catholic Schools NSW Stakeholder Day. Please note this video was not part of their submission, it was created after they were informed of their success in the 2020 ROS award. You can watch it here.

Finalists will receive a framed certificate and a publicity campaign.

## Eligibility

This award is open to Catholic school communities in NSW – primary, secondary and mixed. The following entities are eligible to apply:

1. Parents and Friends (P&F) Associations of Catholic schools (or similar bodies, e.g. a school board/council)
2. Diocesan (or systemic) Catholic Schools
3. 2021 Financially Affiliated Congregational (Religious Institute/PJP) Schools

There is scope for school communities to enter in small groups or clusters provided they meet the all the eligibility and application requirements.

## Commencement of initiative

The initiative may have commenced in 2021 or be an ongoing project.

## Format of submission

You can choose how to format your submission. It could be a video, set of slides, essay, report or a combination of all of these. Photographs, work samples and testimonials are encouraged. You may upload multiple files in different formats. If submitting a video please send the link from youtube or hosting site. Regardless of the format used, the same set of criteria will be applied by the judging panel. You must complete and sign the application form and checklist. The application checklist is a useful scaffold for your application.

## Application Process and Endorsement

1. Applications open on Monday 17 May 2021
2. Applications must be received by 3.00pm Tuesday 20 July 2021
3. Applications must be lodged using the ROS Award Application Form
4. The form is available at the end of this booklet and [ccsp.catholic.edu.au/ros-entry-details](http://ccsp.catholic.edu.au/ros-entry-details)
5. The 2021 award recipient will be asked to create a short 2-3 minute video to showcase their project.
6. Entries to be submitted via the CCSP website [ccsp.catholic.edu.au/ros-entry-details](http://ccsp.catholic.edu.au/ros-entry-details)
7. All applications must be endorsed by both the School Principal and the President/Chair of the School's Parent body. (P&F/Advisory Council/Board)
8. Where the applicant is more than one school community the School Principal and President/Chair of each school community must endorse the application.
9. CCSP will acknowledge receipt of all applications by way of automated email.

## Judging and Presentation

1. Judging will take place in July/August 2021 by a panel to be convened by CCSP.
2. The judging panel will select one award recipient. The accompanying judging criteria (see over) will be applied by the members of the judging panel.
3. The successful applicant will be contacted by the CCSP Executive Director advising them of the outcome.
4. The successful applicant will be requested to create and forward to CCSP a short 2-3 minute video showcasing the project. The school community will have 8 days to complete the video and forward to CCSP Secretariat.
5. All applicants will receive advice from the CCSP to notify them of the outcome of the judging process
6. The successful applicant and the CCSP secretariat will arrange for the CCSP Executive Director to visit the school to present the award. It is expected that some of the parents who have been integral to the success of the initiative will attend the presentation.

## Judging Criteria for the Award

All applicants will be considered by the judging panel on the basis of how well their initiative meets the Award's Essential and Desirable Criteria, as follows:

### **Essential Criteria:** That the initiative:

1. Is a genuinely collaborative partnership between families, the school, and, where applicable, the broader community
2. Illustrates authentic parent engagement directed at the enhancement of student learning outcomes in a Catholic school setting
3. Demonstrates how parent engagement in the learning of children and/or young people has been enhanced
4. Has in-built sustainability such that it does not require ongoing high levels of material investment
5. Can be built upon or enhanced using the \$4,000 funding provided by CCSP

### **Desirable criteria:** That the initiative:

1. Is parent-initiated
2. Clearly demonstrates how all stakeholders (parents/carers, students, teachers, school staff, school leaders, the parish and/or the community) have been involved

## Application Instructions

### Mode or format of submission:

The mode or format of the submission is left up to each applicant. For instance, the submission may be in the form of an engaging video clip or set of slides or more along the lines of an essay or report so long as the required content is addressed. The use of photographs that illustrate the nature of the initiative is very much encouraged.

Feel free to illustrate your description with videos, photographs, work samples, testimonials, etc. Multiple files in different formats can be uploaded as part of your submission.

Regardless of the mode or format adopted, the same published set of criteria will be applied by the judging panel to all applicants' submissions.

### Content of submission:

Provide any relevant background to the initiative, including whether there was an area in need of improvement that was identified and addressed. If any preliminary research was undertaken, make reference to that in the submission.

### **Provide a basic description of the initiative, ensuring that you identify:**

1. How it is a genuinely collaborative partnership between families, the school, and, if applicable the broader community
2. How it illustrates authentic parent engagement directed at the enhancement of student learning outcomes in a Catholic school setting
3. How it demonstrates the way in which parent engagement in the learning of children and/or young people has been enhanced
4. How it is resourced in a sustainable way – include here a statement on the likelihood of this initiative being able to be replicated in other Catholic school communities
5. How effective it has proven to be - include here any evidence that supports your response; this could include testimonials from parents, teachers, students or others.
6. Provide a description on how the \$4,000 prizemoney would be spent should your school community be the recipient of the 2021 Roger O'Sullivan Memorial Award.

# APPLICATION FORM

Applications close 3.00pm Tuesday 20 July 2021



LEADERSHIP • ADVOCACY • SUPPORT

Please complete the application form by providing **typed** responses in the spaces

provided below **Details of Applicant:**

P & F Association/Parent Body       Systemic School/s       Affiliated Congregational School

School Name

Address

Name of the Project

Diocese

Key Contact Person

Role/Position

Telephone

Mobile

Email Address

## Declaration:

As the person submitting this application, I/we certify that:

1. All information provided is done so in good faith and truthfully
2. I/we understand that the Key Contact Person listed on this Application Form will be responsible for the final report on the initiative to CCSP
3. I/we agree to have this initiative shared with the NSW Catholic school sector through publication on websites and other appropriate media channels. If we are the award recipient we will create a short video and forward it to CCSP within 8 days of notification.

Name:

Date

Signature

The application requires the endorsement of BOTH the school principal and the president/chair of the school's parent body. If the application is from more than one school community the school principal and president/chair parent body of EACH school must endorse application.

### Endorsement Declaration:

The persons named below are aware of and support the application and all information contained in the documentation provided and can be contacted to validate the application if required.

#### Principal

Name

Email Address

Signature

Date

#### Parent Body President/Chair

Name

Email Address

Signature

Date

### Submission of Application:

Entries should be submitted electronically via CCSP website here

**Applications close 3.00pm Tuesday 20 July 2021**

## Application Checklist:

To ensure that your application is in accord with the application instructions, please complete the following checklist.

### The application includes:

background to the initiative, including whether there was an area in need of improvement that was identified and addressed, and any preliminary research that was undertaken.

a basic description of the initiative.

how it is a genuinely collaborative partnership between families, the school, and, if applicable, the broader community

how it illustrates authentic parent engagement directed at the enhancement of student learning outcomes in a Catholic school setting

how it demonstrates the way in which parent engagement in the learning of children and/or young people has been enhanced

how it is resourced in a sustainable way – including a statement on the likelihood of this initiative being able to be replicated in other Catholic school communities

how effective it has proven to be - including any evidence that supports your response, e.g. testimonials

a description on how the \$4,000 prizemoney would be spent should your school community be the recipient of the 2021 Roger O’Sullivan Memorial Award

any other aspects of this initiative of which you would like the judging panel to be aware, as applicable, e.g. significant barriers that needed to be overcome, or, any unintended outcomes

Congratulations for developing a family, school and community partnership to enhance the learning outcomes of students in your community.

The Council of Catholic School Parents NSW/ACT wishes you every success for this initiative.