

# School Advisory Councils 2021

## Acknowledgement of Country

Catholic Education Sandhurst respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands of the Diocese.

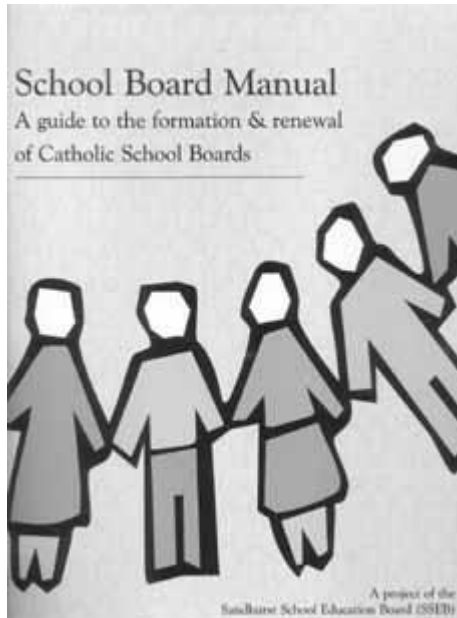
We honour the past and present Aboriginal Liberators who laid the foundation for self determination and rights of Aboriginal Peoples.

We thank them for the gift of their unique culture. We commit ourselves to working together with Aboriginal people for reconciliation and justice.

## School Boards in Sandhurst

- 1974 Heathcote
- 1985 Development of Guidelines for Parish Education Boards or School Boards

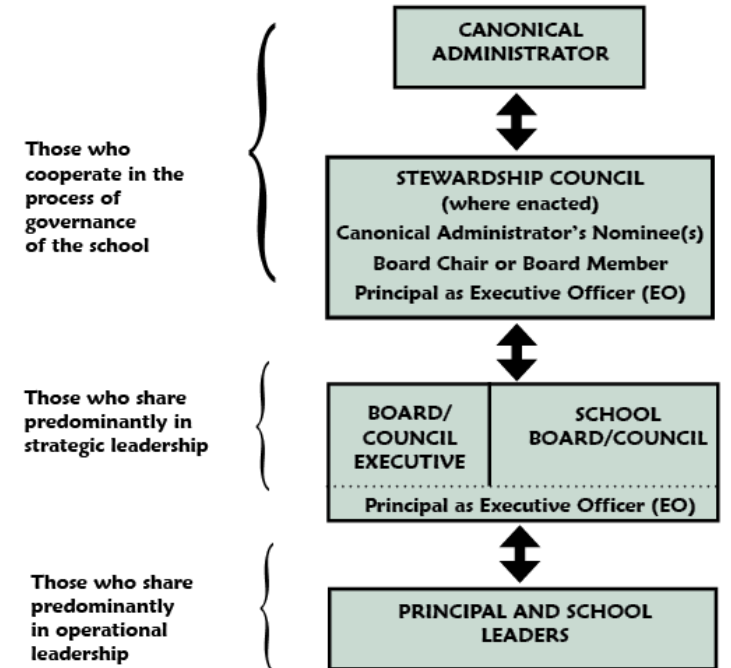
## School Board Manual 1999



- Is primarily about School Renewal and Development (School Improvement).
- Is about enhancing relationships:
  - With each other
  - With “Church”
  - With the profession of teaching
  - With the whole school community
  - With the wider community

# Governance Charter 2012

*“School board/Advisory Councils should be open to and inclusive of the school community and should operate as the regular and on going consultative, accountability and advisory body for their school community; with specific responsibility for strategic planning, support to the Principal, informed advice, school renewal and development, defined areas of policy and general leadership. School board/Advisory Councils should thus be open to broad membership including people of varying gifts, skills and backgrounds.” Pg 27*



## CES Ltd

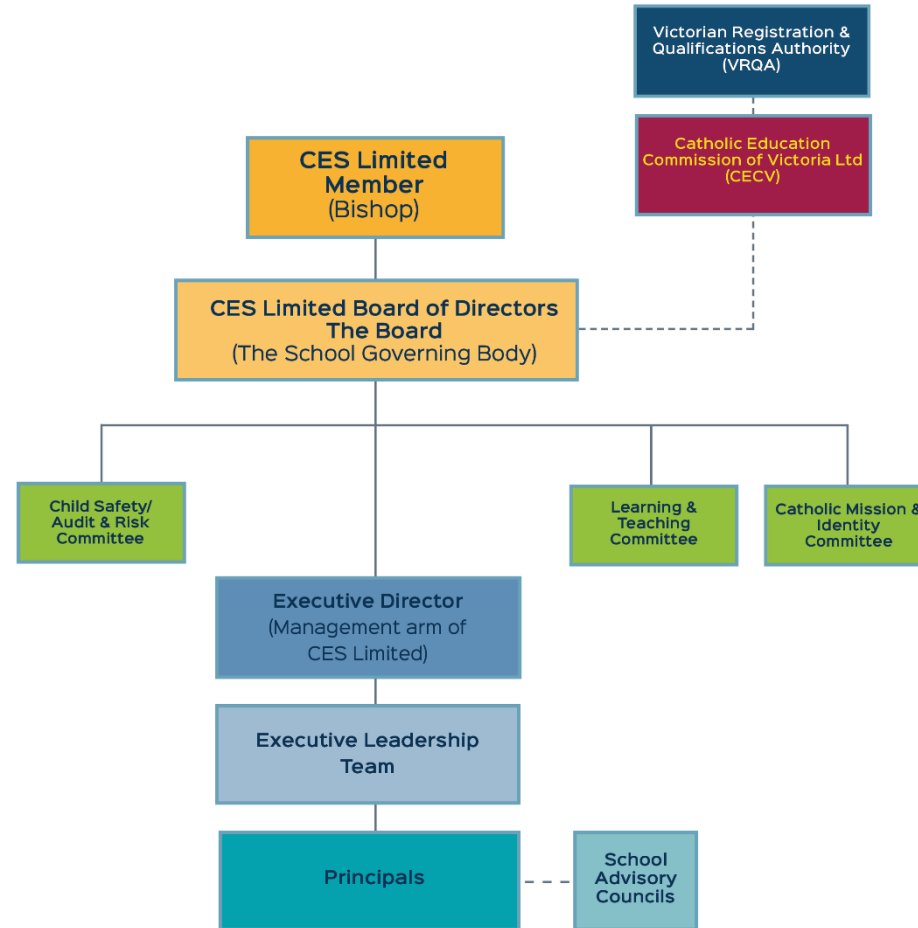
1/1/21

- Victorian Government
- Bishop Shane established a working party
- 12 months of consultation with
  - Parish Priests
  - Principals
  - School Boards
  - Outside experts
  - Met regularly throughout the year
  - Recommendations were made to Bishop Shane
  - VRQA approval

## **Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd. (CES Ltd.)**

CES Limited is the new proprietor (owner and operator) of the existing fifty-two schools within the Diocese of Sandhurst which was previously governed under unincorporated governance arrangements. Accordingly, the Board of Directors of CES Limited (the Board) is the governing authority of Sandhurst Catholic Schools as defined under the CES Limited Constitution. CES Limited is committed to working with school leadership and school communities to build thriving Catholic education schools. A key dimension of this collaborative work is the establishment and effective operation of advisory councils to support the work of schools. These advisory councils are not part of the governance structure as such. They sit separately from the delegation and reporting lines to the Board. They are formation created at a school level to assist the Principal with advisory functions.

## Governance Chart



The School/College Advisory Council is intended to:

- provide a voice for members of the school community
- actively support, in collaboration with the local parish, the Vision and Catholic Identity of the School/College
- provide input into and support for strategic planning and directions
- provide input and contribute advice in the processes of school improvement and school review
- support the Principal in meeting his/her responsibilities and accountabilities for educational outcomes, effective stewardship of resources, and annual reporting
- actively support the Principal in the encouragement of parent/guardian engagement
- support the ongoing sustainability of the Council and its members in its succession and learning



## **Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd. (CES Ltd.)**

- All management and operational matters such as delivery of curriculum, human resource matters, parent complaints, programs and policies are the responsibility of the Principal who may seek the advice of Council members around these matters from time to time.
- Issues of a personal nature or issues involving individuals of the school community will not be raised at Council meetings
- The Principal is the spokesperson for the School/College for initiatives, announcements and issues raised in the local media. No Council Member has authority to speak on behalf of the School/College or Advisory Council, unless explicitly delegated and authorised by the Principal.
- Members of the Council do not have the authority to expend or commit School/College funds.

## Importance of School Advisory Councils

- Advisory in nature
- Involved in the Strategic directions of the school
- Has the “luxury” of “sharing and dreaming the dream”
- Master Planning
- Able to advise around key policy direction

## School Advisory Councils

School Advisory Councils are not involved in the following:

- No role in complaints or grievances
- Not involved in operational matters
- Not a decision-making group – purely advisory
- Annual General Meetings not compulsory

## Policies

- Major policies developed by CES LTD
- School Advisory Councils provide input and advise on School based policies.
- School policies to be ratified and approved by the Principal.