



Notre Dame College

What was your initiative or project about?

Briefly describe the initiative or project. How did your school become aware of the issue or opportunity? Which Wish for Education did it address?

Our video addresses **Love of Learning**, in particular, how we have embedded a culture of The Notre Dame Way in our opening year as a college.

As a new school, The Notre Dame Way provides the guiding principles, rooted in the example of Saint Marcellin Champagnat and the Marist tradition. It has provided a shared language and vision for both staff and students. Staff formation sessions have invited teachers to reflect deeply on the Notre Dame Story, the College's vision, and their own commitments to learning and learners. These reflections have shaped how teachers implement the Notre Dame Way in classrooms and across the school community.

Our school leadership team, has consistently challenged both staff and students to create remarkable moments through learning. Our video is a compilation of many of these remarkable moments.

At Notre Dame College, the **Love of Work** principle is more than a value, it's a lived experience that shapes how students approach learning and personal growth. Students are encouraged to develop a strong work ethic and actively participate in their education, consistently striving to "go the extra mile". This is reflected in their pursuit of personal and academic goals with optimism and perseverance, and in their commitment to lifelong learning. They are taught to understand themselves as learners, think creatively, and use curiosity and imagination to solve problems.

How did you bring the initiative or project to life?

Explain how students and staff worked together to plan and implement the project. What roles did students play?

Throughout the video you will see a collection of our remarkable moments this year. A big part of living out the Notre Dame Way has been establishing our **Community Engagement Projects**. Every grade in the school participates in an annual project-based learning initiative that benefits our school or wider community. The aim is to leave the world a better place than we found it, while promoting problem solving and critical and creative thinking skills using the design thinking process.

Our projects this year:

- **Prep:** Are painting a mural in the prep area to bring vibrance and life to the space.

School: Notre Dame College Best Contact: Laura Knight Project/Initiative Title: Love of Work

- **Year 1:** Building a native bee garden to promote native plants to grown in the area, due to the large amount of construction.
- **Year 2:** Have created a *Litter Legends* campaign that involves providing each classroom with a large waste and recycling bin, clean up school days, a litter management group and a 3D printed trophy for the winning classroom each term.
- **Year 3:** Year 3 identified that there was no Library in Aura and decided to make two street libraries for the community.

Year 7: Are designing and building unique prayer opportunities through the school that support our whole school community deepen the prayer life of the college.

What made it successful?

What positive changes or outcomes did you see for students? How did it improve their experience at school? Using the Notre Dame Way, particularly the **Love of Work**, has led to tangible positive outcomes for students. Teachers have observed increased engagement, resilience, and a deeper understanding of learning as a personal journey. The emphasis on creativity, curiosity, and imagination has enriched classroom experiences and helped students see themselves as capable and valued learners. For teachers, this journey has been equally transformative. It has deepened their understanding of student needs, strengthened relationships, and reinforced the importance of shared values in shaping a thriving school culture. The Notre Dame Way has become a compass for teaching practice, guiding all staff to foster environments where every student can flourish

Q4: What would you do differently next time?

If another school wanted to run a similar project, what advice would you give them? What lessons did you learn?

As we are still in our foundation year, we continue to dream, develop and refine our teaching and learning, but the goal of making remarkable moments remains the same. We are so proud of what we have achieved in such a short time and believe it has truly been a **magical** beginning to an exceptional school.

School: Notre Dame College

Best Contact: Laura Knight Project/Initiative Title: Love of Work