Xavier College
Riverlea Park Campus Principal

Context Statement

Purpose of Context Statement

This Context Statement has been prepared to support the advertisement and recruitment of the Campus Principal for the Riverlea Park Campus of Xavier College. It is designed to be read in conjunction with the Position Information Document and to provide a clear understanding of the strategic, educational, and organisational context in which the role operates.

Xavier College is approved by the South Australian Commission for Catholic Schools (SACCS) to operate as an Enhanced College, reflecting the complexity associated with significant enrolment growth, multi-campus operations, and the establishment of new campuses within rapidly developing communities.

Within the Enhanced College model, the Campus Principal role is a campus-based leadership position with a shared whole-of-College leadership responsibility, contributing to the quality, coherence, and sustainability of Xavier College as one College across multiple campuses.

Xavier College: A Multi-Campus Enhanced College

Xavier College operates as a single Early Years to Year 12 College comprising multiple campuses, each led by a Campus Principal and united by a shared mission, vision, and ethos generated by its Salesian tradition.

The College is led by a College Principal, supported by a College Executive Leadership Team and a single College Advisory Board. Governance, finance, staffing frameworks and strategic planning operate at the College level, ensuring consistency, equity and effective stewardship of resources.

As an Enhanced College, Xavier College has been approved by SACCS to operate within a governance and leadership framework designed to:

- maximise coherent and connected growth across campuses
- ensure high-quality learning, wellbeing and inclusion outcomes for all students
- strengthen partnerships with parishes and local communities
- support the effective establishment of new campuses in growth corridors.

Within this structure, Campus Principals lead the life and work of their respective campuses while working collaboratively with other Campus Principals under the leadership of the College Principal. Collective responsibility for student learning and wellbeing outcomes, Catholic identity, workforce development, and improvement planning is central to the model.

Strategic Context: Growth, Complexity and Opportunity

The establishment of the Riverlea Park Campus occurs within a context of significant population growth in northern Adelaide. Riverlea Park is a rapidly developing residential community, with ongoing housing releases and a growing number of young families. Xavier College's presence responds strategically to this growth, providing access to high-quality Catholic education within a newly emerging community.

The Riverlea Park campus will open in Term 1, 2027 as the fourth campus of Xavier College, initially serving Reception to Year 6 students, with a planned staged expansion from Reception to Year 12 as enrolments increase.

At opening, the campus is forecast to serve approximately 300 students, supported by around 40 staff, with long-term enrolments projected to grow significantly to around 1,400.

Stage 1 development delivers a purpose-designed primary facility with capacity for future expansion. The design intentionally incorporates specialist learning spaces that support coherent learning pathways, enabling the early implementation of middle years pedagogical approaches. Subsequent stages will establish dedicated middle and senior school facilities in response to enrolment demand and community growth.

Catholic Identity and Community Partnership

Xavier College is an archdiocesan Catholic College committed to the mission of Catholic education and to working in close partnership with local parishes. The Riverlea Park Campus forms part of the Virginia Parish, and the Campus Principal will play a key role in strengthening relationships between the school, parish, and the wider community.

The campus will include the first purpose-built, faith-centred Sacred Space within the Riverlea Park community. Located within the Stage 1 building, this space is designed to serve both the school and the broader faith community as part of Being Church Together, reinforcing Xavier College's Catholic identity and mission and supporting meaningful experiences of prayer, liturgy and sacramental life.

The Campus Principal is expected to be an active member of a Eucharistic community and provide visible leadership in Catholic identity, mission and faith formation at the campus level, in alignment with whole-of-College priorities.

Leadership Framework and the Campus Principal Role

Within the Xavier College leadership structure, the Riverlea Park Campus Principal is an educational leader who:

- leads the life and work of the campus community
- is accountable to the College Principal
- works collaboratively with other Campus Principals to deliver the College Strategic Plan and Annual Improvement Plan
- contributes as a member of the Xavier College Executive Leadership Team.

The Campus Principal exercises responsibility for the good order of the campus and leads the consistent implementation of College policies, procedures, and frameworks. While campus-based, the role carries whole-of-College responsibility, particularly in relation to learning and teaching, excellence and equity, diversity and inclusion, staff formation, and College improvement.

Upon appointment, the Riverlea Park Campus Principal will initially be based at the Gawler Belt Campus, working closely with the Xavier College Principal, Executive Leadership Team, and Transition Coordinator to ensure the Riverlea Park Campus is fully prepared for its opening.

Establishing the Riverlea Park Campus

The Riverlea Park Campus Principal will lead the establishment phase of the campus, including:

- staff appointment and formation
- refinement and implementation of high-quality R–6 learning programs
- development of campus identity and culture
- establishment of operational processes and procedures
- enrolment interviews and community engagement
- collaboration with the City of Playford in relation to shared-use facilities
- establishment of Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) provision
- engagement with the Early Learning Centre service provider based on site.

Xavier College has developed a comprehensive community profile for the planned Riverlea Park campus based on enrolment engagement since 2025. This profile will support the Campus Principal in designing responsive learning and wellbeing programs that meet the evolving needs of the Riverlea Park community.

Educational Focus and Future Directions

The Riverlea Park Campus will establish a distinctive educational focus on STEM and Design Thinking, aligned with Xavier College's commitment to innovation, student agency and real-world learning. This focus will initially shape the R–6 program and extend through to R–12 as the campus grows.

The campus will also develop professional partnerships with advanced manufacturing and industry partners within the City of Playford, providing authentic learning opportunities that enhance students' understanding and application of STEM and design principles.

In addition, students will benefit from a broad range of learning and enrichment opportunities, including access to sport-focused co-curricular programs across the planned district-level sporting precinct.

Conclusion

The Riverlea Park Campus Principal is a foundational leadership role within Xavier College and offers a unique opportunity to establish a new campus within a thriving, future-focused community.

The role requires an experienced, relational and strategic educational leader who can balance campus-level leadership with collective responsibility across a complex multi-campus College.

Applicants are encouraged to consider this Context Statement carefully as they discern their suitability for leadership within an Enhanced College model characterised by growth, collaboration and a shared commitment to excellence, equity, and Catholic mission.