

School Philosophy Statement



Introduction

The constitution of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS) contains a Statement of Mission, which provides the expectations of the sole member of MACS, the Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (Member), for Catholic schooling and the identity and work of a Catholic school. The Statement of Mission positions MACS firmly in the reality of the Eucharistic character of the Catholic school, affirming that its enterprise is one that builds community and provides opportunity for personal transformation.

With parents and parishes, Catholic schooling seeks to fulfil this mission by providing an environment in which students are enabled to:

- *encounter God in Christ and deepen their relationship with him*
- *pursue wisdom and truth encouraged by a supportive academic culture*
- *grow in the practice of virtue, responsible freedom and serving the common good.*

A Catholic school:

- *is actively embedded in the life of the faith communities of the local Church, which in turn is tangibly manifested in the life of each school*
- *is an essential place for the evangelising of children and young people*
- *exists to assist students, and their families, to integrate faith, reason, life and culture*
- *is conspicuously Christian in outlook, explicitly Catholic in faith and practice, and intentionally missionary in orientation*
- *cultivates spiritual, social and emotional growth in a safe and protective environment*
- *provides a learning environment in which the whole educational community is formed to embrace life in all its fullness (Jn 10.10)*
- *offers a human formation that has the intellectual, practical and moral excellence of learners at its heart*
- *forms consciences, fosters peace and develops respectful dialogue, at the service of intellectual charity*
- *encourages the discovery of Catholic cultural heritage, especially in art, music, literature and architecture.*

St Mary's School Castlemaine, is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

St Mary's School Castlemaine is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Castlemaine area.

Mission

- We gather in a faithful, supportive and inclusive community to build partnerships and a sense of belonging.
- We listen to God, others and ourselves to develop positive relationships.
- We share responsibility for our learning and guiding the learning of others.
- We act with faith, kindness and resilience working collaboratively and as empowered people to make a positive difference in our world.

Vision

We are an empowered and sustainable learning community, centred in faith and united in our respect and responsibility for all of creation; we strive for excellence; actively living, learning, caring and growing together.

Values

We support students to grow in virtue and to embrace a view of themselves and the world that leads to peace, justice, and the prospering of the whole of creation.

We are a community of learners who:

- honour the sacred dignity of each person.
- embrace difference and diversity.
- build a culture of learning together.
- honour equitable access and opportunity for all.
- search for truth.
- engage with the deep questions of life.
- commit to achieving the best in ourselves.
- make a difference in the world.

Objectives

St. Mary's Primary School see learning as an adventure and a journey of endless possibilities, where students are energised to seek meaning and explore questions about the world around them. In partnership with our parents, parish and broader community we contribute to a life-foundation for students that is centred in Jesus Christ and grounded in truth, beauty and love. At the very heart of our school is a desire for each student to excel, across spiritual, physical, cognitive, emotional and social domains.

As a learning community we tap into children's natural curiosity and motivation to learn and create opportunity for deep and rich learning experiences through a process of purposeful, project based and open-ended experiences where the children learn through the process of problem-solving, creating and collaboration.

Philosophy enactment

We strive to work together, fostering respect for all and developing the whole child in a challenging, positive and caring environment actively referring to the following dispositions with our students:

As learners we:

- wonder
- persevere
- believe
- create

Acting with:

- respect
- responsibility
- resilience.

The school's philosophy is published on our school website as well as in our key policies such as our enrolment policy.

Reporting

The MACS Board will ensure schools have implemented a contextualised school philosophy using this template through the annual report to the school community and regular school review processes (at least once every four years).