

School Philosophy Statement



MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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 Catholic Primary School 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 Catholic Primary School is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Hastings area.

Mission and Vision

Our Hopes and Dreams:

With Mary as our model, St Mary's Catholic Primary School strives to be a community where we:

- embrace and experience Gospel values which permeate the life of the school.
- commit to and celebrate our Catholic tradition.
- hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children as paramount.
- value and recognise learning as a lifelong process for all
- pursue excellence in all our endeavours.
- foster a thirst for learning, a healthy self esteem and the ability to overcome obstacles.
- develop all dimensions of each child.

Putting Vision into Action:

With Mary as our model we:

- Provide a quality education within a Catholic framework in partnership with parents and the wider community.
- Promote and commit to positive relationships; the catholic ethos; dignity; justice; care, safety and wellbeing for all. We have zero tolerance to any form of child abuse, including neglect.
- Provide a welcoming and secure environment that nurtures, stimulates and challenges individuals to attain their full potential.
- Recognise the talents, abilities and uniqueness of each individual and provide policies, programs and structures that cater for and respect their differences.
- Implement a balanced and sequential curriculum based on current educational research and best practice.

Values

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we value integrity, inquiry, excellence, spirituality, a sense of community and respect. Our values set out expectations for all members of the school community.

Objectives

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, we aim to empower young men to take their place in a contemporary, global society as valued individuals, alive with the wisdom of the gospel.

Philosophy enactment

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School, our school philosophy, which includes the vision, mission, values and objectives, will be central to all our policies, practices and teaching and learning programs. 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).