Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

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

Mission

With Christ as our central focus and model, and believing in the uniqueness and dignity of each person created in the image of God, St Mary’s Parish School mission is to: Engage with faith and Catholic traditions, relating them to contemporary culture and life whilst nurturing a distinctive Christian spirituality. Promote respect and justice, creating a climate

where all feel welcomed, secure and valued. Provide excellence in education that is rich in content and meets individual needs. Create a learning environment that encourages personal growth and a love of
learning. Empower our students to meet the demands of an ever changing world while fostering a hope for the future. As citizens of Australia, prepare our students to participate fully in our contemporary society and to uphold the Australian Constitution. Work in partnership with parents and caregivers who are the prime educators of their children.

Vision

St Mary's is A Dynamic Catholic Community of Empowered Learners engaging justly in the world.

Values

At St Mary's Parish 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 Parish Primary School, we aim to empower young people to engage justly in a contemporary, global society as valued life-long learners, animated by the wisdom of the gospel.

Philosophy enactment

At St Mary's Parish 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).