

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.*

Holy Child Primary School is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

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

Mission

Holy Child's Mission is to strive for school improvement in an environment that embeds the values of respect, fellowship and positive relationships with our students and families. We value the importance of a connected learning environment; respectful of all learners, relevant to our contemporary world and in partnership with our wider community.

Supported by School Leadership, our teachers provide an inclusive, differentiated curriculum empowering all members of the community to be curious, self motivated learners and critical thinkers in an ever changing world. Teachers educate in a relational culture that embraces all aspects of respect and are trusted in their knowledge and expertise.

Holy Child's families are valued as an integral part of a diverse community whereby communication is always open, purposeful and respectful. Inspired by the life and service of Saint Mary of The Cross and the values of The Josephites, Holy Child provides an environment where our students are accepted unconditionally and have respect for themselves and others. Holy Child provides a challenging and safe environment where teachers, students and their families work together as active members of the community; fostering respect, equity and empathy for all.

Vision

As people of God, the community of Holy Child continually seeks wisdom, knowledge and grace. Our learners are empowered to create a just and caring world. We never see a need without doing something about it.

Values

Holy Child Catholic Primary School where gospel values of relationship, community, outreach, learning and celebration are witnessed in everyday school experiences.

Cooperation: 'Sharing and learning together'. Cooperation is working together in a team, contributing and sharing in a helpful way.

Achievement: 'Persist and try your best'. Achievement is striving to attain your personal goals, persisting and giving your best effort.

Respect: 'Respect each other and our environment'. Respect involves taking responsibility for each other. Respect is speaking to and interacting with others in a courteous manner. It is about being honest, reliable and trustworthy.

Empathy: 'Treat others with care and compassion'. Empathy means trying to understand other people's views or feelings and being supportive and caring towards them.

Collaboration: We work together to create an environment where children are happy and engaged in quality learning. To do this we balance kindness and empathy with courage and honesty in order to build trust between children, teachers and community members. We show respect towards ourselves, others and our environment.

Creativity: We value learning that encourages children to develop their thinking. We value learning that provides a solid foundation for their role in the world. We want our children to grow in mind and body, to enjoy the discovery of new ideas and ways of doing things. We encourage and foster innovative thinking that leads us to discover and grow new ways of teaching and learning in order for our children to achieve their best.

Excellence: We encourage children, staff and parents to be industrious and strive to achieve their personal best. We constantly strive to aim ever higher and do better from wherever we start. We value tenacity in order to achieve our goals.

Celebration: We enjoy coming together as a community to celebrate learning and success. We celebrate diversity of ability, background and culture. We show appreciation and acknowledge achievement.

Holy Child's values essentially are inspired and underpinned by the Josephite Sisters:

- love
- respect
- justice
- gratitude
- excellence.

Objectives

At Holy Child Primary School, we aim to empower our students to take their place in a contemporary, global society as valued individuals, alive with the wisdom of the gospel.

Philosophy enactment

At Holy Child 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).