

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

St Joseph's is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Upper Yarra Valley area.

Mission

Our mission is inspired by the spirit of St Mary of the Cross and the Josephite Sisters.

St Joseph's School Community is one in which members:

- are inspired by Jesus Christ and the gospel values of love, truth, justice and peace.
- have a sense of belonging and are active contributors to the parish, local and wider community.
- will be given many opportunities to develop spiritually, physically, academically, emotionally, socially and culturally.
- value life-long learning and have high expectations of possible achievements.
- find meaning through integrating faith, life and culture.
- aspire to create a just world that promotes the dignity of every human person.
- promote the Gospel message according to Christian values.
- will be aware of the rights of all people and will be responsible for their own actions.
- appreciate and care for the natural environment.
- build relationships that foster a collaborative approach.

Vision

Inspired by Jesus Christ, St Joseph's School is a community, nurturing personal, spiritual and academic growth empowering all for a future of hope.

Values

At St Joseph's School, we value respect, responsibility, resilience, integrity, inquiry, excellence, spirituality, and a sense of community. Our values set our expectations for all members of the school community.

Philosophy enactment

At St Joseph's School, our school philosophy, which includes the vision, mission, and values 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. The philosophy is enacted through the Faith Life of our school, our approaches to Learning and Teaching, in the respectful and caring relationships which enhance the well-being of all members of the school community. This is nurtured and modelled by the leadership of the parish and school community.

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).