

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

St Michael's is a Catholic Primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in Ashburton, Melbourne.

Mission

A safe community of animated learners, enlightened by faith in God

Vision

St Michael's is a Catholic school where each of the following statements is considered of equal importance.

In the context of Our Vision, each child is encouraged to develop:

- a sense of self-esteem, acceptance and resilience
- an awareness of the uniqueness and worth of each individual as gifted and loved by God
- an active participation in the life of the Faith community
- an enthusiasm for learning
- competence in all Key Learning Areas
- the ability to be creative, imaginative and open to change
- respect for self and others and
- responsibility for their own decisions and actions
- pastoral Care for all members of the school community is of prime importance
- reconciliation/Forgiveness is taught and practised so joy can be expressed and affirmation can be given
- children, parents and staff are nurtured in a faith environment so that they may grow in their relationship with God and each other
- each child learns in a physically safe and emotionally secure environment where they feel accepted and challenged to work to their own potential
- the individual needs and learning styles of each child is recognised and accommodated
- each staff member works cooperatively with compassion and sensitively as a part of a team, while striving for professionalism, excellence and personal growth
- we endeavour to recognise, respect, share and encourage the expertise and involvement of parents in the ongoing education of their children
- we strive to give recognition to the educational needs of the financially disadvantaged in our Parish and act as their advocates

Values

At St Michael's School, we value inquiry, spirituality, community and engender within our students a strong sense of respect for themselves and each other.

Objectives

We aim to empower our students with a sense of independence and confidence and as they develop into young adults, we inspire them to engage in their community, both locally and globally, as valued individuals with a strong send of the gospel values.

Philosophy enactment

At St Michael's 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).