

School Philosophy



St Joseph's



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 **Westernport** area.

Mission

School Mission "Education through Inspiration, Innovation and Compassion".

Vision

Growing Together in Knowledge, Faith and Friendship

St Joseph's aspires to be a school of excellence building knowledge, faith and friendship KNOWLEDGE- We aim to empower the school community with skills and attitudes to recognise, create and participate effectively in a changing world.

FAITH- We aim to foster an environment where the Catholic Faith is celebrated, communicated and lived, in a spirit of respect for the dignity of each person.

FRIENDSHIP- We aim to develop a caring and supportive school where all members of our community experience a sense of belonging and each individual uniqueness is valued and nurtured.

Values

Learning is Life! Our school is based on a landscape of positive learning experiences where we promote students making sense of the world around them, knowing themselves, their identity, and their beliefs within a context of their faith and being inspired and committed to craft their future with optimism and hope.

Each individual is at the centre of all that we do - developing a love of learning, a strong sense of self and the skills and attitudes to be successful in a changing world. Our Catholic school is a community where positive relationships and belief in people are at the core of what we do. We believe in the promotion of positive education where wellbeing and learning connect ensuring the flourishing and growth of each individual. We believe that building an understanding of self and wellbeing is as important as academic pursuit

We respect the dignity of every person in our community. We promote and value that each person is an individual, diverse and different in his or her own way. "Every individual has a personal narrative experiences that colour what they question, the answers they seek, the possibilities they see, and the ways they come to know the truth." (Horizons of Hope 2015)

In our Contemporary world, we recognise the importance of the development of the whole child spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically, socially and emotionally. Within this ever- changing world we strive to ensure our children are enlivened by the life of Jesus and have a strong sense of respect, compassion and justice.

Objectives

We promote our students constructing their own beliefs and building character to live a life full of

hope and meaning. We encourage our students to continually explore, question, wonder and create inciting curiosity and thinking about the world around them making meaning and understanding.

Learning to learn, partnering to learn, collaborating to learn, connecting to learn, contributing to learning are our key drivers building a wonderful culture of learning for all in our community. We believe that every person in our community is important and deserves the best opportunity to grow and learn by providing access and equity to all regardless of their needs.

We are committed to the highest of expectations based on data and evidence promoting growth and success for every person. We promote the achievement of high academic standards through the connection of learning and life where students can make the necessary meaning from their learning. We promote our students being drivers in their learning and being active citizens committed to making a difference and crafting the world around them. By providing students with the Know, Do and Be of learning our students can develop an understanding of the world, a sense of self and the necessary dispositions and actions to be confident, curious, creative and committed to ensuring the very best learning for their future.

Philosophy enactment



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).