

St Mary's College

School Philosophy Statement



MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



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 College is a college which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS Specialist Schools Ltd, a subsidiary of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS).

St Mary's College is a Catholic P-12 specialist school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families across Melbourne. St Mary's College currently operates educational programs from six sites. This is enabled through an agreement with five Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) and Salesian College Sunbury. Each of these schools (hosts) provides St Mary's College with space within one of their buildings from which to operate. A partnership (Campus Collaborative Agreement) is entered into with each of the six schools with a common intent of providing an integrated educational experience for St Mary's College students.

Mission

Our College mission integrates our key values of Empowerment, Inclusion, Independence and Resilience with our knowledge of the explicit needs of deaf and hard of hearing students and the values intrinsic to Catholic Faith.

Vision

A faith community shaping the formation of empowered, inquiring students.

Values & Objectives

Empowerment: Empowering deaf and hard of hearing students to lead themselves as strong and confident contributors to their school community.

Inclusion: Promoting inclusive learning environments that celebrate diversity, acknowledge human rights and commit to the social justice central to the Catholic faith.

Independence: Fostering self-sufficient, capable deaf and hard of hearing students actively setting and achieving their own goals.

Resilience: Building resilient deaf and hard of hearing young people capable of dealing with life's challenges, maintaining positive relationships and holding a healthy sense of their own identity.

Philosophy enactment

At St Mary's College our philosophy, which includes the vision, mission, values and objective, will be central to all 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 St Mary's College has 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).