

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.*

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

Stella Maris is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Point Cook West area of the [Holy Trinity Catholic Parish](#) formerly known as the Parish of Laverton.

Mission

Developing positive relationships in a connected community, where Gospel Values, an inquiring attitude and personalising learning are nurtured as all aspire to experience success.

We cultivate passion, spirit, creativity, innovation, stewardship and global mindedness, as we engage in learning together.

We aim to develop students who have a sense of purpose, hope and love, and have the confidence to think, feel and act in regenerative ways to the challenges of our time.

Vision

Creating a learning community,
nurturing and integrating faith and life,
in a spirit of openness.

Values

At Stella Maris, we value the following Gospel Values that set out expectations for all members of the school community.

Cooperation Creativity Commitment Respect

Empathy Independence Integrity Enthusiasm

Objectives

That each student achieves twelve months of growth for 12 months of learning in English and Mathematics.

Philosophy enactment

Today's educational environment needs to prepare students for a world in which work, society, community and personal relationships are of equal importance. It is a world in which work, ideas and the economy are constantly changing, in which technology plays a major part, and which is increasingly influenced by international events.

Our school has its basis in an Inquiring approach to learning and teaching that will endeavour to empower the students to be lifelong learners. We strongly believe that parents are partners in the learning journey of their children. We develop links with our community.

Our school has been innovatively planned and built to provide an environment where today's educational requirements can be met:

- Learning areas are adaptive and responsive, open and flexible
- Wireless Technology allows for immediate access in any location
- Easy access to indoor and outdoor learning areas and resources
- Space provided for Performing Arts and Visual Arts
- Large community gathering spaces
- Environmentally friendly

The school's philosophy is published on our school website.

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).