

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

St Patrick's Primary School is a Catholic primary co-ed school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Lilydale area.

Democratic Principles

At St Patrick's Primary School we recognise that the school plays a vital role in advancing democratic ideals and principles. For democracy to continue to thrive, children must be taught democratic ideals and principles and to value its way of life. St Patrick's Primary School will explicitly and implicitly support and promote the principles of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- elected government
- the rule of law
- equal rights for all before the law
- freedom of religion
- freedom of speech and association
- the values of openness and tolerance.

Through our curricular and extracurricular programs, St Patrick's Primary School will prepare our children to become citizens who will preserve and shape democracy in the future. Democratic values will be taught explicitly in the

curriculum and implicitly in the child's experience of the school, from classroom practice, and from what is taught to how it is taught.

Reporting

The Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Board will ensure schools have published this Democratic Principles Statement through the Annual Report to the School Community and regular school review processes (at least once every four years).

Mission

With Christ before us: - aspiring to reach our full potential

We will

- value and accept all members of our school community
- promote involvement according to abilities and needs
- have a commitment to listening to the viewpoints of each other
- believe in and appreciate the giftedness of each individual
- provide on-going opportunities for all members to share these gifts with each other
- provide a quality education which challenges each student to achieve his/her fullest potential
- ensure a comprehensive curriculum
- place equal importance on all aspects of a child's development- physical, social/emotional, spiritual, academic
- ensure that the curriculum caters for all levels
- build a sense of community through a variety of school activities

With Christ beside us: - encouraging a community of respect

We will

- be challenged by the message of the Gospel
- endeavour to model Jesus in all we do
- experience God's love and forgiveness through each other
- love and respect ourselves and others
- strengthen the partnership between home, school and the wider community
- ensure that our school is a welcoming place.
- educate for peace, justice and equality
- encourage the students to want to make the world a better place
- ensure that decisions are made justly and at the appropriate level
- establish consistent discipline procedures which treat children fairly and honestly, and which encourage self-discipline
- value the experience of working together in a cooperative manner
- conduct all interactions with respect
- encourage open communication within the collaborative process
- be aware of the pastoral need of community members and respond accordingly
- develop a sense of belonging and security in the classroom and school

With Christ behind us: - celebrating our achievements

We will

- experience and celebrate the liturgies of the Church
- assist with the initiation of the community into the Church's sacramental life
- develop and strengthen links between our school and the parish community
- develop our understanding of the wider structures of the Church
- celebrate the achievements of all, no matter how small

Vision

*With Christ before us; Aspiring to reach our full potential
Christ beside us; Encouraging a community of respect
Christ behind us; Celebrating our achievements*

Values

At St Patrick's Primary School, we value justice, equality, excellence, spirituality, a sense of community and respect. Our values set out expectations for all members of the school community.

Objectives

At St Patrick's Primary School, we aim to empower students to take their place in a contemporary, global society as valued individuals, alive with the wisdom of the gospel.

Philosophy enactment

At St Patrick's Primary School, 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).