

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.*

Our Lady Star of the Sea is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

Our Lady Star of the Sea is a Catholic Primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Ocean Grove area.

Vision

Inspired by Mary and guided by our faith in her Son, Jesus, we aspire to be a respectful, nurturing and engaging learning community.

Scripture reference:

“I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.” John 10:10

Mission

Our Lady Star of the Sea creates a faith community where families, staff, children and parishioners feel a sense of inclusion, belonging and connectedness as the Gospel values permeate all aspects of school life.

We commit to collaboratively grow our catholic and learning cultures and the well being of all in our school community, to ensure all students flourish and reach their full potential.

We place our students at the centre of all learning and commit ourselves to personalise and differentiate learning, where targeted and explicit teaching is a key component.

We encourage our students to be critical and creative thinkers in faith and life, valuing the importance of student voice as they develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions to live authentic, faith filled lives. This is in line with our school motto "Setting the Right Course."

We honour the sacred dignity of each person and embrace difference and diversity, where children feel safe. We encourage Respectful Relationships and a strengths based approach, with children nourishing not only their own gifts and talents but those of others.

We commit to building a culture of learning where there is access and opportunity for all to reach their highest possible standards, in a spirit of collaboration.

We aim to make a difference in the world through the relationships we build at school, within our local and global community, our social justice actions and our care for creation.

Values

RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, SAFETY, COMPASSION, INCLUSION, CARE for all of GOD's CREATION.

Our values set out expectations for all members of the school community. We do this through shared expectations and ensure all members of our school community feel safe with their learning, work and play.

Objectives

At Our Lady Star of the Sea we work, in a spirit of collaboration, to provide the best learning and teaching opportunities, resources and experiences to ensure students are empowered to strive to be their best and "reach for the stars". We foster a love of learning and facilitate our student learning to empower our students to be self motivated, self directed and self managed learners, enabling student voice and student agency.

We develop the whole child academically, physically, socially, emotionally and spiritually in order to make at least one year's growth annually. We use a range of pedagogies to support students to master the core competencies of English and Mathematics along with educating in all Key Learning Areas, ensuring connections to self, community and the environment. We aim for our students to be competent in all capabilities such as personal and social, ethical, critical and creative thinking and feel safe to take risks with their learning.

Philosophy Enactment

At Our Lady Star of the Sea, 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).

May 2022