

# 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.*

MacKillop College is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

MacKillop College is a Catholic secondary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Werribee area.

## Mission

MacKillop is a Catholic college in the Josephite tradition. Inspired by the spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, we strive to:

- encourage individuals to reach their full potential as life-long learners by providing an innovative, challenging and collaborative learning and teaching environment in a rapidly evolving society;
- foster leadership by empowering and developing all members of the school community;
- enhance positive relationships in a supportive community by promoting justice and a sustainable future;
- support wellbeing by affirming the intrinsic dignity of each individual, embracing diversity and empowering active citizenship;
- witness to the presence of God amongst us by celebrating our Catholic heritage as a faith community.

In this, we seek to be disciples of Jesus, our model for authentic humanity.

## Vision

*Celebrating all life*

*Challenging all people*

*Dreaming the new day*

## Values

We live by the Josephite values of:

- Creative Courage
- Mutual Respect
- Conscious Compassion
- Intentional Inclusivity

## Objectives

### ***Education in Faith***

- Relate to others in a manner which reflects the person and the teachings of Jesus Christ
- Engage in opportunities to respond to the faith needs of our communities
- Acknowledge the gifts and achievements of all through school liturgies and other celebrations

### ***Teaching and Learning***

- Promote a culture of enquiry and the creative exploration of ideas
- Explore the ongoing nature of learning and its connectedness to life
- Develop a challenging and relevant curriculum in a collaborative environment

### ***Student Wellbeing***

- Foster partnerships across the school and wider community that raise awareness of, and enable a response to, issues on a local and global level
- Recognise, embrace and affirm diversity within the school community
- Model the values of the Gospel teachings

### ***School Community***

- Consider the immediate and long term impact of our decisions and actions
- Value and respect the contribution of all
- Pursue opportunities for developing partnerships within the community

### ***Leadership and Management***

- Empower community members to embrace leadership roles within the school
- Build leadership capacity through professional development, mentoring and on going review
- Create management structures that support all in leadership roles

## **Philosophy enactment**

Our philosophy is enacted through our teaching and care for students; it guides our teaching, strategic plans and governance decisions.

- We are committed to offering our students the best education possible, and allowing each student to realise their full potential.
- We are committed to offering the best academic environment possible. To do this, we support each student's learning and ensure that each student can learn in an environment free from bullying, harassment, and undue distraction.
- We are committed to caring for each student's emotional and pastoral needs. To do this, we have a pastoral care framework and provide support such as counselling services and education on resilience and mental health.
- We are committed to allowing each student to achieve in areas of their own interest. To do this, we accommodate each student's interests, allowing them to balance curricular and extracurricular activities, and encourage them to pursue their interests.
- We are committed to fostering leadership in all of our students. To achieve this, we have programs and activities which encourage each student to lead among their peers.
- We are committed to allowing each student to live a healthy and active lifestyle. To do this, we provide education on a healthy lifestyle, and encourage sporting and other recreational activities.

## **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).