

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

St Francis Catholic College is a Catholic secondary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the parishes of Melton, Melton South and Bacchus Marsh.

Mission

St Francis Catholic College is committed to providing educational opportunities that actively welcome, engage, inspire and challenge all students to learn in a safe and enlivening Catholic environment.

Our mission is to nurture the personal, spiritual and academic growth of each individual in this community in an atmosphere of faith, care, support and encouragement.

We aim to foster the growth of personal worth and to develop the gifts of each individual through the pursuit of prayer, knowledge, communication and service to each other.

While respecting individual differences, we challenge each other to use our talents in the best way possible.

We encourage personal excellence, self-discipline, and a sense of responsibility, which is displayed in our respect and concern for the well-being of all.

Through this community of purpose, St Francis Catholic College - the students, parents and staff - will be a sign of God's presence in the local community.

Vision

Christ-centred Catholic education providing excellent, inclusive and contemporary teaching and learning.

The founding Principal of CRC Melton, Sr Helen Reed, described the school's philosophy as follows:

"In this Catholic school we would aim through our education and our teaching of the Catholic faith to create a Christian educational community where human knowledge, enlightened and enlivened by faith, is shared by teachers, students and parents in a spirit of freedom and love".

This is a goal worth striving for and we do so with faith and hope, knowing that Christ is the source of our efforts and our unity.

Values

At St Francis Catholic College, we value:

- Compassion and empathy
- Cohesion of our community
- Solidarity with the poor and marginalized
- Dignity of the individual
- Inclusion

Our values set out expectations for all members of the school community.

Objectives

Our school is a community that exemplifies the gospel values of love, forgiveness, justice and truth. Our school community recognises that everyone has the right to be respected, to feel safe and be safe and, in turn, our school community acknowledges each member's own obligation to behave responsibly.

Every person at the school has a right to feel safe, to be happy and to learn. Therefore our school aims:

- To promote the values of honesty, fairness and respect for others
- To acknowledge the worth of all members of the community and their right to work and learn in a positive environment

- To maintain good order and harmony
- To affirm cooperation as well as responsible independence in learning
- To foster self-discipline and to develop responsibility for one's own behaviour.

Philosophy enactment

As a Catholic school, we aim to:

- show the vital place of faith in living
- offer experience of prayer and worship
- develop values of empathy, service and love
- provide wellbeing structures that support the spiritual and emotional growth of students
- provide an education which allows students to become active participants in our global society

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).