

## 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 Joseph's PS is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

St Joseph's PS is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Elsternwick area.

## Mission

At St Joseph's our mission is to:

*Live our faith:*

- Uphold the values of Jesus Christ, so that each person experiences love, forgiveness, acceptance and hope.
- Develop and enact a strong sense of social justice and stewardship.
- Celebrate our Catholic faith and traditions.

*Educate our students for the world:*

- Prepare our students with skills and strategies to enhance their social and emotional wellbeing.
- Develop expert teachers who provide a rigorous and contemporary learning environment.
- Nurture and engage all students to be curious lifelong learners.

*Connect and care for our community:*

- Provide a safe environment for all in our care.
- Foster trusting and respectful relationships with all members of our community.

## Vision

Our vision is to be a welcoming and safe Catholic school that inspires excellence in all areas of school life. We promote spiritual, social and emotional wellbeing and academic success. We empower our students to become compassionate, contributing citizens.

## Values

The philosophy shared at St. Joseph's School is based upon a Catholic centred education community that prepares students to be effective members of society.

This philosophy centres on the foundational values of:

- Catholic Faith and Spirituality.
- Intellectual Competency.
- Social Responsibility.
- Mutual Respect.

## Objectives

Teaching and learning at St. Joseph's School provides a dynamic and supportive environment where students are encouraged to be independent and co-operative life long learners. Students are supported to develop the twenty-first century skills of collaboration, communication, critical thinking, creativity and citizenship.

## Philosophy enactment

Teachers are innovative team members who use exemplary teaching skills and strategies to facilitate learning. They model Catholic values and attend to the individual needs of students in their care. Ongoing professional development and reflection are encouraged to ensure excellence in teaching.

Education is seen as a partnership between home and school. Parents are an integral part of the students' progress and are encouraged to participate in the teaching and learning programs of the school. Involvement in the school through fundraising, social activities, parent involvement in

classrooms and other activities is also encouraged and welcomed.

The Parish community provides further opportunities for student learning through its support of the school, both as members of the local community, and also as members of our faith family.

## 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 (atleast once every four years).