

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. Joseph's 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

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

Mission

Our mission is to provide a rigorous and contemporary Catholic education that integrates faith, life, culture and social and emotional wellbeing.

Vision

As a vibrant Catholic learning community, we will develop engaged, independent and successful learners who will contribute to the world for the good of all!

With this understanding:-

- We create a welcoming environment that fosters mutual respect and cooperation.
- We acknowledge the family as the first and constant influence in the education of faith and we nurture the family atmosphere by working in partnership with parents.
- We lead each child to an understanding that they are special and we aim to develop their gifts and talents to their full potential.
- We offer experiences which encourage children to participate in the Parish and develop their sense of belonging.
- In implementing the total curriculum, teacher will provide a balanced range of opportunities and experiences in all subject areas that will both encourage and prepare children for a rapidly changing world.
- We seek to foster the well balanced academic, social and faith development of each child.
- We create a community where children can work collaboratively with teachers, fellow students and family members to solve problems, share knowledge and develop responsibilities.
- We work towards developing positive self-esteem, assisting the children in becoming confident members of the wider community.

Values

At St. Joseph's we value Respect, Honesty, Learning and Teamwork. Our values set out expectations for all members of the school community.

Objectives

As a vibrant Catholic learning community, we will develop engaged, independent and successful learners who will contribute to the world for the good of all.

Philosophy enactment

Curriculum

Each child at St. Joseph's, is entitled to thrive in a vibrant learning community and to develop as an engaged, independent and successful learner.

- Innovative and contemporary learning spaces inside and out
- Nurturing, supportive and inclusive school environment
- Dedicated staff committed to quality teaching and learning
- Literacy and Numeracy intervention programs
- Inquiry learning
- Innovative and flexible learning environments
- Integration of the digital curriculum through all areas of learning
- Specialist classes; performing arts, visual arts, physical education and LOTE (Italian)

Wellbeing through Engagement

St. Joseph's nurtures family friendly partnerships and promotes wellbeing through building resilient students:

- Buddy Program
- School Leaders
- Student Action Council (SAC)
- Social and Emotional Learning embedded throughout the child centred curriculum
- Transition programs to promote successful promotion through the school years and confident learners

Religious Dimension

At St. Joseph's we provide quality education within the context of the Catholic faith, where we nurture the God-given uniqueness of each student and challenge each student to reach his or her full potential

- Parish Sacramental Program
- Opportunities for prayer throughout the day
- School liturgies and School Parish Masses
- Family sacramental activity evenings
- Celebrations of holy days and liturgical calendar events
- Grandparent's/Special Person's Day

Extracurricular Opportunities

- Before and after school care
- Swimming program (Prep-grade 6)
- Interschool Sports (grade 3 – grade 6)
- Outdoor Education programs and school camps
- School choir
- Master Art Class
- Robotics
- School concerts
- Dance

Community

We offer experiences which encourage children to participate in the parish and develop a sense of belonging; a part of the community

- Little Joey's Playgroup
- Participation in parish events and Masses
- Participation in community events; including ANZAC Day services, Remembrance Day Services, annual Lions Club Interschool quiz, interschool sports, I sea I care Ambassador Program, Dolphin Research Institute Program
- Cooperative activities with other schools and kindergartens in the community
- St. Mary and St Joseph Care Service
- SAC led community projects (eg. Fundraising for community charities)

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).