

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 Theresa's Primary School is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

St Theresa's Primary School is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Albion Area.

Mission

Each person is created in the image of God and called to communion with God. Therefore, all human life is sacred and every human being has an innate dignity. This understanding of the human person and that the children in our care are central to all that we do is at the heart of the values that underpin Catholic education at St Theresa's School.

St Theresa's Catholic School's mission therefore is:

To witness Jesus Christ in a learning community dedicated to the formation of the human person enabling them to reach their full potential

To integrate Faith, Culture & Life by teaching and celebrating the Catholic faith and traditions enabling us to live the Gospel values as presented in Catholic Social Teaching.

To develop life-long learners by providing an excellent inclusive, comprehensive, contemporary and holistic education that caters for spiritual, social, emotional, intellectual and physical development

To share the responsibility for all children in the school and to work in partnership with the home

To act with integrity, respect, authenticity, presence and responsibility, acknowledging the richness and diversity of each other, and to live harmoniously, equitably, justly and sustainably for the common good

To provide a safe, stimulating, happy and caring environment that protects children and promotes their health, development and wellbeing

Vision

St Theresa's Albion, a school that welcomes local families into an inspiring Catholic community dedicated to excellence in education and social justice.

Values

At St Theresa's School, our values reflect Catholic Social Teaching. Our values set out expectations for all members of the school community.

Objectives

At St Theresa's School, we aim to be part of the educational process that empowers young people to be life-long learners able to take their place in a contemporary, global society as valued individuals, alive with the wisdom of the gospel.

Philosophy enactment

At St Theresa's School, 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).