

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.*

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

Our Lady of the Nativity is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Parish of West Essendon.

Mission

The mission of Our Lady of the Nativity is inspired by the models of Mary of the Nativity and St Francis of Assisi. Our school is infused with Franciscan Spirituality which is Christ centred and Gospel based. We aim to bring children to an understanding that they are children of a loving God who have been created in his image. In educating our children in the Franciscan Tradition, we aim to develop good people who are equipped to make a difference in the world. Our Mission is to integrate faith and life through every dimension of school life, enabling the full flourishing of each member and equipping them with the skills, knowledge and dispositions to live the Gospels in the world.

Vision

Our Lady of the Nativity School is a faith-filled community that gives witness to, and proclaims the Gospel Teachings of Jesus.

within a nurturing environment, inclusive of all its members, we uphold the dignity of the human person.

Through an holistic approach to education we aspire to develop lifelong learning.

With a commitment to social justice, a sense of purpose and hope, we encourage our members to be active participants in the global community.

Philosophy

The vision and mission of Our Lady of the Nativity School are enhanced by the Philosophy and Mission of the International Baccalaureate. As an International School offering the Primary Years Program, we 'aim to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.'

Through our educative mission we encourage our students to 'become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that people, with their differences, can also be right.'

Our core beliefs about contemporary learning in a Catholic context are that:

- Learning is personalised, learner centred and caters for the uniqueness and diversity of our learning community.
- Learning is a dynamic, organic and purposeful process. Our mission is to ignite individual passions and equip students for their learning and life journeys.
- High expectations, and an awareness of ourselves as learners, drive us to reach our full potential.
- learners are innovators and creative thinkers who must be empowered and motivated to take responsibility for their own learning and be active participants in the world.
- All learning journeys and discoveries are recognised, valued and celebrated..

We believe that powerful learning is engaging, collaborative and student driven. Feedback and reflection will promote challenging, purposeful, relevant learning that is transferable and life-long.

Philosophy enactment

At Our Lady of the Nativity School, our philosophy, which includes the vision, mission, values and objectives, will be central to all our policies, practices and teaching and learning programs. Both our faith and life education and the transdisciplinary program of inquiry through which our children learn, combine to ensure that our philosophy is enlivened and deepened within our learners and the community. 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).