

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 Jude'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 Jude's Primary School is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the local area.

Vision

We at St Jude's value a positive community that is inclusive and respectful of relationships, appreciative of diversity.

- We are committed to our faith community, fostering an environment where all staff & students reach their potential as lifelong learners.
- We recognise the importance of family in each student's learning and ensure that every effort is made to involve and inform parents in a supportive and effective manner. We also value the diversity of families and build on the experiences that students bring to the classroom.
- We value and respect each person and carry this into our parish and wider community. We connect the learning environment of the classroom with the parish, local, national and global community in a variety of ways both internal and external, online and in person.

We aim to create a learning community that actively promotes knowledge and skills for a twenty-first century society.

- We are committed to maximising the use of technologies to optimise learning for all (students, parents, staff and the wider community) in an online environment.
- We are committed to building staff capacity, who are accountable to each other, through a shared ownership of teaching and learning.
- In light of our Catholic faith and traditions, students are provided with opportunities to become independent learners, creative thinkers and be selective in the ways they choose to learn. Staff emphasise the quality of learning with high expectations of achievement and support students to reach their full potential.

We will provide an engaging and differentiated curriculum, growing the whole person through a climate of shared culture, and a safe and nurturing environment.

- We are committed to using high quality data and targeted, explicit teaching to ensure students achievement through personalised learning.
- We value every student's well being as the responsibility of every staff member as we move from class lead learners to school lead learners to global lead learners.
- We are committed to achieving a high level of student engagement through planning with students' needs and interests in mind as stewards of our sustainable, global community.
- Students are provided with a safe, stimulating and supportive environment where every student feels secure and valued. Teachers use strategies to develop investigative and problem solving skills which encourage questioning, reflecting, creativity and imagination.
- A variety of methods of ongoing assessment and reporting are used. Teachers explain the purpose of the assessment to students to guide and enhance future learning. The adjustment of tasks in both planning and teaching aims to meet the range of abilities and learning styles.
- Students are encouraged to take risks in their learning. They show respect for all learners and acceptance of individual differences.

Mission

Education in Faith

We, at St Jude's, aspire to develop, deepen and celebrate the core traditions of our Catholic faith, primarily through the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Word.

As a faith community we also aim to develop a personal relationship with God through prayer, the Sacraments, the recognition of religious symbols and professional development in Religious Education.

Student Wellbeing

We recognise the individuality of each child within an inclusive environment. We ensure that students develop as people who are taking increasing responsibility for their own spiritual and physical wellbeing. This will foster learning, relationships with others and their role within the local, national and global community. We aim to provide a structure whereby children build positive relationships through promotion of social justice and Gospel values, team play and by being able to make appropriate choices.

School Community

We aspire to become a strong Catholic school community in partnership with the parents and parish. It is our aim to make the school accessible to all children baptised in the Catholic faith and to those who wish to avail themselves of a Catholic education.

Social justice is fostered in children through the explicit teaching of the values of Jesus and the Catholic Church. We reach out to the wider community to create a sense of awareness and responsibility amongst the students, parents and staff.

Learning and Teaching

We aim to provide an environment where we develop the whole child, socially, morally, spiritually, psychologically, physically and academically. We provide opportunities for the child to develop their faith with Jesus as their model and guide. Children are provided with a safe, stimulating and supportive environment where every child feels secure, valued and praised and has a right to succeed. We offer a diverse curriculum in accordance with the standards set by the Victorian Curriculum, to cater for the individual differences of each child. Implementation of policies and programs are accomplished through the joint partnership of teachers and parents. Assessment, using a variety of formal and informal data, plays a vital role within this process. It is used to assist children to be reflective about their learning and enables teachers, in conjunction with parents, to guide and enhance future learning.

Leadership and Management

At St Jude's, leadership and management involves forging strong links between school and parish leadership teams. Effective communication strategies exist between the Principal and the Parish Priest and regular consultation is sought from the Leadership Team, the Consultative Committee and the Parish Education Board. Leaders value the process of self-development in their managerial style and abilities and foster leadership qualities in all staff. School Leaders are a formal means of instilling leadership in senior students, however all students are supported in developing leadership skills and goal setting. Leaders nurture positive teamwork amongst staff and encourage colleagues to participate in professional learning.

Philosophy enactment

At St Jude's Primary 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).