

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

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

Vision

St Peter's is a faith filled and inclusive community that embraces diversity. We aspire to engage and empower all to think crucially and act justly, guided by our Catholic values, on our journey as lifelong learners.

The school provides structures, processes and procedures for creating links between student wellbeing and improved learning outcomes. Every student, teacher, parent and community member is accepted and invited to make a contribution to a vibrant school community that seeks to fire the imagination, develop good citizenship and promote a lifelong thirst for God and learning.

At St Peter's we aim to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment, where each child feels accepted and respected, and is challenged to work to his/her full potential. Ours is a community of learners where all students are personally known, encouraged and challenged by a dedicated, caring staff.

We work to ensure that the programs offered, and the teaching in St Peter's Catholic Parish School, supports and promotes the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- elected government
- the rule of law
- equal rights for all before the law
- freedom of religion or freedom of speech and association
- the values of openness and tolerance.

We work as a collaborative team to achieve common goals. We value learning from each other and a culture of learning and continual improvement at St Peter's. We believe this will provide the best learning for our students.

Philosophy enactment

At St Peter's, 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).