

# 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 Mary MacKillop is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

St Mary MacKillop is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Keilor Downs area.

## Mission

Our mission is inspired by St Mary MacKillop and enacted, promoted and articulated throughout the school and the school community through the following:

- Close partnership between school, Parish Priest and involvement of parishioners
- Our curriculum, where the RE curriculum draws direct links with other areas of learning
- A commitment to whole school prayer
- Icons around the school
- Prayer tables / spaces in classrooms and shared spaces
- Our actions welcoming an inclusive and caring school community and environment
- Our learning diversity, NCCD and Student Wellbeing programs
- All teacher planning demonstrating our collective appreciation and understanding of the importance of differentiation
- Effective collection and reviewing of relevant student data ensuring students know their students and their point of need
- Our commitment to meet the individual curriculum and wellbeing needs of all our students
- Our commitment to explicitly teaching and developing our students as visible learners
- Our commitment to the appreciation of being socially just in our world
- Parents are included through P&F, regular meetings, School Advisory Council, Fundraisers, Social Events, Seesaw platform, newsletter, celebrations showcasing student work and achievements, school assemblies / masses.

## Vision

Our vision is to empower children to live with integrity through experiences of community and prayer and through a sensitivity to justice. Our core values underpin the vision of the school.

*“Never See A Need Without Doing Something About It”*

*Mary MacKillop, 1867*

## Values

At St Mary MacKillop, we value integrity, inquiry, excellence, spirituality, a sense of community and respect. Our values set out expectations for all members of the school community.

## Objectives

At St Mary MacKillop, we aim to empower young minds to take their place in a contemporary, global society as valued individuals, alive with the wisdom of the gospel.

## Philosophy enactment

At St Mary MacKillop, 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).