

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.*

School of The Good Shepherd is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

School of The Good Shepherd is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Gladstone Park area.

Mission

Our mission is inspired by the story of the Good Shepherd as told in the Gospel of John. Outline your mission. This may also be reflected in the school's strategic plan. School of the Good Shepherd is a vibrant community where our curriculum and experiences enhance our school mission of "known by your name". The Catholic Social Teachings assist in ensuring that students understand that through the teachings of Jesus Christ we can be active, fulfilled global citizens showing empathy and understanding for all. At School of the Good Shepherd we provide a supportive, safe environment where students feel they are protected, valued and respected. We, at School of the Good Shepherd, strive to provide an inclusive environment where empathy is taught through the teachings of Jesus Christ and where students feel they belong, are known and are valued. We develop and challenge all students to strive to the best of their ability so as to become active global citizens through developing a sense of curiosity and connectedness to real life experiences. The teaching staff is committed to using assessment processes to guide future learning, meet individual learning needs and are communicated in a positive, constructive manner.

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 of belonging, compassion and growth inspired by the person and teachings of Jesus, the Good Shepherd underpin the vision of the school. We recognise the uniqueness of each person and aspire to empower each individual to become active citizens in the community and global world.

Philosophy enactment

At School of The Good Shepherd, 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).