

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 Pines Catholic Primary School 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 Pines Catholic 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

Our Lady of the Pines School Vision is to encourage Catholic practices and the way of life based on the Gospels.

We are called to:

- Act justly
- Love tenderly
- Walk humbly with our God

(Micah)

Mission

At Our Lady of the Pines we encourage Catholic practices by sharing the knowledge, beliefs, values and ethos of the church. The staff brings with them a diverse range of faith experiences which provide students with models of adult Christian life.

The school in collaboration with families provides the opportunity for students to make a personal commitment to God through prayer, Sacraments and participation in the faith journey.

Our Lady of the Pines is a place, which fosters the development of positive self-esteem and strives to provide a safe and secure environment where every individual is treated with respect and justice.

Our Lady of the Pines is a place, which represents a challenging and stimulating curriculum that is comprehensive and allows and encourages individual students to develop at their potential - effort as well as achievement is valued.

Through a learner-centred curriculum students are encouraged to be active, independent learners who take increasing responsibility for their learning.

Our Lady of the Pines is a place where a family atmosphere prevails and parents and the wider community are encouraged to participate in many programs and feel welcomed and appreciated.

Philosophy enactment

At Our Lady of the Pines Catholic 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).