

# 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 Agnes' 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 Agnes' 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

At St Agnes' School, we strive to inspire excellence in our students through an inclusive and challenging learning environment. We aim to be engaged with our community and express our Catholic faith through action.

## Mission

### **We Are Faith-Filled**

We create an environment where students understand that their Catholic Faith and identity is the centre of all that we do. Students come to know their faith through understanding of the Gospels, the celebration of our traditions and being in relationship with God through Prayer, Liturgy and Action.

### **We Care**

We provide a nurturing, purposeful and rigorous learning environment where our students feel connected with their teachers and peers, and safe to take risks and make mistakes.

### **We Have A Holistic Approach**

We foster the development of the social, emotional, academic, spiritual and creative growth of every student.

### **We Challenge**

We empower students to be resilient, flexible and curious learners who enjoy a challenge, can apply a growth mindset and become proficient problem solvers.

### **We Develop Thinkers**

We develop our students into critical thinkers and responsible communicators who can positively contribute to our ever changing, contemporary world.

### **We Strive For Improvement**

We aim to further develop staff who value collaboration and are committed to providing high-quality, best-practice teaching and learning approaches to ensure that the needs of all students are met, wherever they are on the continuum of learning.

### **We Are Better Together**

We value and enrich positive relationships between students, staff, parents, the parish and extended community.

### **We Value Community**

We create opportunities for all members of our community to lead and actively contribute to the achievement of the school's shared vision and mission.

## Philosophy enactment

At St Agnes' 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).