

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.*

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

Mary Queen of Heaven is a Catholic **primary** school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the **Greenvale area**

Vision

Mary Queen of Heaven is a learning community that lives the gospel values. We follow the example of Mary in fostering our relationship with Jesus our God.

We are empowered to solve problems, to nurture compassionate and respectful learners who work together for the common good.

Motto

“Let the Light Shine”

Mary Queen of Heaven is named after Our Lady. The Mother of Jesus- Jesus, the one true source of light for all of us.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells us ‘I am the Light of the World’ [John 8:12]. When we follow Jesus, we walk in His light. Mary walked always in the light of Jesus and followed His Way, the Way that leads to Heaven.

The Light can be linked to Heaven, our eternal home. It is reflected in the accent of gold through our school colours. The light of God permeates all that we are and all that we do at Mary Queen of Heaven.

We are called to see the light, be the light and shine the light of God.

May we turn to Mary, the Queen of Heaven, to help us to let the Light of Jesus shine always in how we live our lives and treat others!

Values

Love

To love others we must love ourselves and our God. We are called to love our neighbours and encourage others to do the same. Mary was an exceptional example of love: loving and forgiving even in her darkest days. Jesus’ love for us and the love of our eternal destination of Heaven is reflected in the name of our School. We encourage our students to be instruments of love in their words and actions.

Humility

Mary our Mother was a wonderful example of humility.

Humility is the quality of being humble. Humility is a low self-regard and sense of unworthiness. It means recognising self in relation to our God. To be truly humble we need to spend time listening to others. ...

1. Practice mindfulness, and focus on the present. ...
2. Be grateful for what you have. ...
3. Ask for help when you need it. ...
4. Seek feedback from others on a regular basis. ...
5. Review your actions against the language of pride.

We encourage our students to be humble and gracious in their interactions with others.

Courage

Mary was a woman of courage. She courageously said 'Yes' when called upon by God. Courage can mean standing up for what you believe in, being a responsible risk taker and following your hopes and dreams.

We encourage our students to be courageous in their learning, in their relationships and in the decisions they make.

Respect

Respect for self and others is integral in promoting quality relationships and a loving and harmonious school community.

We encourage our students to practice respect for self, others and property in their daily life at Mary Queen of Heaven.

Philosophy enactment

At Mary Queen of Heaven our school philosophy, which includes the vision, motto and values will be central to all our policies, practices and teaching and learning programs.

The Vision and Learning philosophy at Mary Queen of Heaven emerges from a wide range of theory, research and best practice. Central to our approach is ensuring that learning is made visible to students. Learning progressions, analysis of data and goal setting work towards empowering our learners to understand themselves as learners as well as the processes of learning. Developing students' competencies to think creatively and critically, to problem solve and to reflect, are the essential components of our learning and teaching approach.

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).