

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 Leonard's is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

St Leonard's is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Glen Waverley.

Mission

In the spirit and tradition of Catholic Education, we aim to provide a safe and caring Gospel based Christian educational environment for the children of St. Leonard's Parish.

Vision

Aspiring to Excellence.

Values

We believe that God is the centre of our faith, life and existence and that our words, actions and curriculum should reflect the teachings of the Gospel

We aim to provide a learning environment, which is friendly, welcoming and secure, where children, parents and teachers work in unison to support and nurture each individual. We endeavour to provide educational resources and physical facilities, necessary to enhance this learning environment.

We value each individual within our school community and commit ourselves to assist and challenge them to realise their spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social and physical potential. We strive to contribute to the development of students' sense of self worth, enthusiasm for learning and optimism for the future.

We acknowledge that learning is a perpetual process that continues throughout one's life. We offer our children and staff an environment in which learning is embraced and celebrated.

We acknowledge the role of parents as the prime educators of their children and encourage collaboration of parents and teachers in the development of each child.

We believe that teachers are role models who are called upon to provide rich opportunities for students to become effective learners, to develop skills and strategies and to competently manage the different learning disciplines.

We value the rich cultural and social diversity that exists in our society and encourage students' greater understanding, tolerance and acceptance of others.

We believe that we are called to care for all in our community and support the concept of social justice through our promotion of the Gospel values.

We commit ourselves to a learning environment that is technologically and academically progressive by providing the opportunity to experience success in the pursuit of excellence.

We appreciate that our school is an integral part of St. Leonard's Parish community and encourage children and their families to participate and contribute to the life of our parish.

Objectives

At the completion of Year 6 each child will be academically, emotionally and socially prepared for the next phase of development, demonstrating the following skills and attitudes:

- to be both literate and numerate
- to be empowered in the means of creative expression
- to work collaboratively and value diversity
- to be open minded, empathetic, inclusive and accepting of difference
- to be independent and organised
- to have effective interpersonal communication skills in a variety of contexts
- to inquire, research, analyse, question and reflect as an effective and creative problem solver
- to be a responsible, ethical and informed global and digital citizen demonstrating respect for opinions, culture, laws and the environment

- to be resilient, connected with others, have healthy relationships and a positive approach to life's opportunities and challenges
- to appreciate and develop the Catholic faith and apply Gospel values in life
- to make choices which positively impact on health and wellbeing
- to be outward facing with a strong sense of social justice

Philosophy enactment

At St Leonard's, 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).