

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

St Elizabeth's is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Dandenong area.

Mission

Example only:

Our mission is inspired by the [insert the name of the saint/apostle/charism/order/special spirituality]. Outline your mission. This may also be reflected in the school's strategic plan.

Vision

St. Elizabeth's Parish School is a Catholic Parish Primary School striving to make faith real in the world for all within our care. Parents and Staff support our students to grow to their full potential as active participating members of the faith community following Christ's example.

Our school is focused on safety for our school community in all areas, including the physical, the relational and the digital environment.

Our educational purpose is to meet the needs of the current generation by supporting all our students to become independent and self-motivated. We encourage them to be learners who have a deep understanding about themselves, others and the world around them. We strive to develop their capacity to build and maintain relationships and actively and positively contribute to the global community.

As teachers we see ourselves as a community of lifelong learners committed to the provision of innovative learning opportunities for every student. We believe that focused teaching brings about powerful learning. We take advantage of contemporary tools and learning environments to support the provision of relevant, rich and personalised learning opportunities.

Values

Respect: we look after each other and the environment

Responsibility: we use our choices to make this world a better place

Equality: we are all valued and deserve a fair go

Cooperation: we encourage each other to work and play happily.

Just as Jesus taught us.

Objectives

At St Elizabeth's, we aim to empower young men to take their place in a contemporary, global society as valued individuals, alive with the wisdom of the gospel.

Philosophy enactment

The St Elizabeth School vision is promoted and enacted in all areas of the school. Every classroom and office space or room in the school including the front office foyer displays the vision in a frame where staff, students and visitors can refer to it.

Our vision is displayed on our school website for prospective families and visitors to read and learn more about what we strive to achieve in our community. Our vision is often referred to in Staff Professional Learning days forming part of a staff prayer and reflection.

As learners in an ever changing society, the school vision articulates our strong commitment to promoting our Catholic Identity, improving our Teaching and Learning outcomes, fostering Student Wellbeing and building and valuing our Community.

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).