

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 Catherine of Siena 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.

St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School is a Catholic primary school which was established in 2020 to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Armstrong Creek area.

Mission

As a Catholic Primary School in partnership with our families and parish we, at St Catherine of Siena:

- *Energise all students with quality and innovative teaching and learning through high expectations to pursue excellence.*
- *We welcome and promote a compassionate community of learners who recognise and respect the dignity of all, celebrating differences.*
- *We rejoice in diversity, knowing all children can learn.*
- *Engage and enlighten each child in Gospel values, modelling the Catholic Social Teaching and embracing Catholic tradition*
- *Cultivate a positive, safe school of learners with a particular focus on enhancing each child's wellbeing*
- *Emphasis the building of positive relationships with self and others*
- *Develop a strong sustainability education through our words and actions*

Vision

St Catherine of Siena is a learning community which engages children, enlightens all in Gospel values, energises high expectations and empowers each child to set the world on fire. Together we enrich each other's journey in an ecological manner, and strive for excellence.

Our learning community has a strong focus on student engagement, empowerment and excellence.

Values

At St Catherine of Siena Catholic School, we value integrity, inquiry, engagement, empowerment, spirituality, a sense of community and respect. We strive for excellence as our patron saint stated,

"Do not be satisfied with little things, because God wants great things!"

Our values set out expectations for all members of our learning community.

Our Expectations

We are Learners

We are Respectful

We are our Best Selves

Objectives

At St Catherine of Siena School our objectives are to

- *To provide an inclusive and excellent education for all students at St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School.*
- *To offer participation in a community of Faith with a Catholic identity*
- *To develop strong administrative and educational processes that will support a growing school into the future.*
- *To acknowledge and respect the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin nations, the Traditional Owners of the land in which St Catherine of Siena School dwells.*

- *To establish a supportive, safe and nurturing school environment that is inviting, engaging, empowering and that strives for excellence.*

For the area of Armstrong Creek in the Parish of Nazareth, St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School has commenced a new era and new opportunity for the Catholic community and the children of the Parish.

It is most appropriate that St Catherine of Siena is our patron, because she had a strong vision for learning, a desire to bring the love of God into everyone's hearts and the courage to make a difference through her actions. From Catherine's own words we take inspiration and courage to...

**“Be who you were created to be,
and you will set the world on fire.”**

Our school is a community that exemplifies the gospel values of love, forgiveness, justice and truth. Our school community recognises that everyone has the right to be respected, to feel safe and be safe and, in turn, our school community acknowledges each member's own obligation to behave responsibly. This Policy is intended to guide our school's actions. It has been developed in consultation with the school community and seeks to prioritise respectful relationships and safety in response to the rights and needs of all members of the school community. A safe and supportive environment respects the rights of all students to learn, the rights of all teachers to teach and the rights of all members of the school community to be safe.

Every person at the school has a right to feel safe, to be happy and to learn. Therefore, our school aims:

- *to promote the values of honesty, fairness and respect for others*
- *to acknowledge the worth of all members of the community and their right to work and learn in a positive environment*
- *to maintain good order and harmony*
- *to affirm cooperation as well as responsible independence in learning*
- *to foster self-discipline and to develop responsibility for one's own behaviour.*

Philosophy enactment

At St Catherine of Siena 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).