

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

St Clare's Catholic School, Thomastown is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Thomastown area.

Mission

St Clare's Primary School is committed to the provision of quality Catholic Education in Thomastown West. We call on the Spirit of Clare of Assisi to guide and inspire us in serving our community and carrying out our mission. We are joyful people who reflect the light and love of Christ in today's world. We value and foster hope, respect, compassion, justice and courage.

Vision

We aspire to:

- Celebrate our relationship with God and the traditions of our Catholic school while remaining inclusive of other faiths and work together to participate in acts of social justice.
- Build a nurturing, supportive and caring community, which empowers students to be valued and successful individuals in our ever-changing world.
- Provide an engaging and challenging environment where students develop the characteristics to become effective, lifelong learners.
- Provide an inclusive, welcoming and outward facing community that fosters positive partnerships which empower all stakeholders to connect and engage in learning.
- Create a culture of trust where all members work collaboratively to optimise student learning.

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).