

School Philosophy Statement



MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



St Mary's College
Seymour

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

St Mary's College is a Catholic Foundation to Year 12, co-ed school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Seymour and surrounding areas.

Mission

Our mission is inspired by the venerable Catherine McAuley through the Mercy values. With the College returning to Year 12 in 2025, the College mission will be revisited in the next College Strategic Plan.

Vision

A welcoming Catholic community that respects our heritage and looks to a sustainable future.
We inspire learning excellence, resilience and service to others.

Values

At St Mary's College, we are guided by the Mercy values and ethos of:

- Compassion: Responding to vulnerability with care and concern
- Justice: Seeking fair and equitable outcomes for all
- Respect: Treating all whom we meet with joy and kindness
- Hospitality: Offering welcome and comfort
- Service: Dedicated to proclaiming God's love through word and deed
- Courage: Willing to speak up and speak out in response to injustice

Our values set out expectations for all members of the College community.

Objectives

At St Mary's College we offer an education for life, one that values mind, body and spirit. As a Catholic College community, we inspire our students to meet several very important challenges – to develop a deeper awareness of themselves, of God and of others.

A holistic education brings together faith, community, friends and learning. Our dedicated staff nurture the skills and knowledge that assist students to become motivated and thoughtful citizens, promoting achievement, wholeness and participation.

We aim to empower our students to take their place in a contemporary, global society as valued individuals, alive with the wisdom of the gospel.

Philosophy enactment

At St Mary's College 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).