

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.*

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

Mercy College is a Catholic secondary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Coburg area.

Mission

Mercy College is a Catholic secondary college for young women, committed to handing on the teachings of Christ and His Church, and to living out those teachings. At Mercy College, personal growth is fostered and diversity celebrated. We strive for excellence as a learning community which is student centred, curriculum focused, community oriented and culturally enriched. We are committed to maintaining a child safe environment. In the Mercy spirit, love, compassion and service underpin all we are and do.

Vision

At Mercy College we endeavour to empower students to engage in authentic learning within a global context. We focus on the literacies required for collaborative learning in a knowledge based society.

With an emphasis on developing a socially just and environmentally aware consciousness, we provide a basis for the individual to contribute with purpose to their world community as a confident, articulate and self-aware young woman. Inspired by Catherine McAuley and the tradition of Mercy, we aim to do this within a faith based, nurturing and educationally challenging environment.

Values

At Mercy College, our values are 'who we are' to each other and for each other.

Excellence

Doing her best to maximize her potential.

Every girl needs to find her passions and pursue her dreams. At Mercy, our girls explore, investigate, imagine and discover learning in all its diversity.

Excellence is about doing her best whether it be in academic studies, music and performance, sport, culture, language, community service or wherever her imagination takes her.

Hospitality

Giving to others to make a positive difference in their lives.

Hospitality is both generously offered and received. It begins on Discover Mercy Open Day with a personal conversation with the Principal and then flourishes throughout her Mercy years including:

- Co-curricular and House activities
- Specialised programs such as E.I.G.H.T Program and Compass
- Night of Excellence
- Activities Week
- Immersion Experiences globally and locally

and much, much more.

Justice

Being fair in everything that she does and giving what is deserved.

When we expect to receive justice we must also live it and give it. Enabling every girl to deepen her understanding and experience of justice takes place in the everyday and the extraordinary.

We encourage all our girls to have a voice in school and community through such programs as Seeds of Justice and M.A.D. (Make a Difference) Week.

Compassion

Caring or understanding about someone in need or trouble.

Compassion, care and connectedness is strengthened through our wellbeing programs. Based on Restorative Practices and structured through School Wide Positive Behaviour Supports (SWPBS) every girl's unique identity is important to us.

At each year level wellbeing, mindfulness, social, emotional and spiritual needs are catered for. Nurturing every girl so she flourishes is core to us growing her in Mercy.

Objectives

At Mercy College, we respect, value and celebrate each student's gifts and all that she brings to our community. All that we do in the areas of faith, wellbeing, academic and co-curricular programs seeks to affirm, celebrate and extend each girl's talents and gifts. Our teaching and support staff work in partnership with our families work to support their daughter's development.

Philosophy enactment

At Mercy 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.

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).