

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 Oliver Plunkett 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 Oliver Plunkett Primary School is a Catholic Primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Pascoe Vale area

Mission

We at Saint Oliver Plunkett Catholic Parish Primary School see ourselves as part of Catholic Faith Community which strives to

Lead children as they grow in relationship with God by promoting the message of Jesus and the Gospel Values through prayer, scripture and relationships with others.

- Provide a learning environment where self-esteem is nurtured, where differences are respected and where a sense of welcome pervades the school.
- Foster positive and supportive relationships between students, parents/guardians, teachers and the wider Parish community.
- Ensure that students have a broad and comprehensive education which equips them to be life-long learners, independent and active learners.
- Cater for the individual needs of all our children through a varied curriculum that recognises learning as a continual and developmental process.

Vision

We at Saint Oliver Plunkett Catholic Parish Primary School have a vision. In the spirit of peace and forgiveness, with Jesus by our side, we aspire to be learners who are connected in a faith community that

is
inclusive,
respectful,
loving
and compassionate.

Values

St Oliver Plunkett Primary School community's vision is underpinned by the value of LOVE, highlighted through our focus on:

COMPASSION
RESPECT
KINDNESS
GRATITUDE
SAFETY
INCLUSIVENESS

Objectives

The St Oliver Plunkett Primary School learning community model is characterised by:

A culture of:

- lifelong and self-driven learning
- commitment to personal growth, shared vision and team learning
- assisting all students to embrace learning
- excellence and
- connectedness through strong community partnerships.

Dedicated teachers delivering an exemplary Learning and Teaching program that facilitates:

- achievement of academic, social, emotional and physical potential
- a stimulating learning environment where students are highly engaged and motivated
- inclusive, innovative and challenging curriculum
- curriculum design, which caters for individual learning needs
- engaging personalised learning experiences
- student goal setting
- explicit teaching of literacy and numeracy skills and
- inquiry based learning.

A learning environment that:

- provides equal opportunities and values diversity
- develops knowledge and values
- promotes student leadership opportunities
- is positive, safe, supportive & cooperative
- equips students with skills and knowledge to cope successfully in an ever-changing world.

Philosophy enactment

At St Oliver Plunkett 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).