



School Philosophy Statement

St Catherine of Siena Catholic Primary School



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 Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS).

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.

Mission

At St Catherine of Siena our mission is inspired by the charism of St Catherine of Siena. Our learners are the centre of all that we do, and the school environment offers opportunities for all learners to engage in learning, develop as a whole person and strive to reach their full potential.

Vision

Our vision is to empower children to live with integrity through experiences of community and prayer and through a sensitivity to justice. Our core values underpin the vision of the school. Our school vision reflects one of the powerful teachings of St Catherine of Siena.

Be all that you can be

- *living the message of Jesus*
- *nurturing relationships with God, self, others and the world*
- *inspiring learning through creativity, curiosity and passion*
- *empowering independence and growth to wholeness for all*

and you will set the world on fire”

Values

Our beliefs and educational practices reflect and support the Gospel Values of faith, love, service and respect. We also value integrity, inquiry, excellence, a sense of community and welcome. Our values set out expectations for all members of the school community.

Objectives

At St Catherine of Siena, we aim to empower the children to take their place in a contemporary, global society as valued individuals, alive with the wisdom of the gospel.

We endeavour to work with them to find their voice and know that they have valuable contributions to make, not only to the school but to the wider community.

All members of our community work collaboratively in a lifelong learning journey and support one another in contributing to our ever-changing world.

Philosophy enactment

At St Catherine of Siena, 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 monitor that MACS' schools have a contextualised school philosophy, using this template, through the Annual Report to the School Community and regular school review processes (at least every four years).