

St Thomas the Apostle 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 Thomas the Apostle School is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

St Thomas the Apostle School is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Blackburn area.

Mission

Our mission is inspired by St Thomas the Apostle

The "Doubting Thomas Novena for Faith" is a prayer inspired by the life and transformation of St. Thomas, also known as "Doubting Thomas." Through this novena, we are invited to deepen our faith in God, confront our doubts with honesty, and renew our trust in the Lord.

Each day of the novena focuses on a specific aspect of faith, guided by St. Thomas' journey from skepticism to profound belief in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The novena includes prayers that address various prayer intentions related to faith, such as trust, courage, patience, discernment, healing of doubt, and community.

This prayer invites us to grow in our relationship with God, deepen our understanding of faith, and experience the transformative power of God's love and mercy in our lives. The Doubting Thomas Novena for Faith serves as a beacon of hope for all who seek to overcome doubt and embrace a deeper, more vibrant faith in Jesus Christ.

Lord Jesus, in moments of doubt, please grant me the faith of St. Thomas, to trust in Your presence, to seek Your truth, and to believe with all my heart that You are my Lord and my God. Amen.

Vision

Taken from the website –

St Thomas the Apostle School is a faith filled community that embraces diversity. We endeavour to inspire confidence in all students to achieve, empowering them to prepare for the future, and contribute to our world, with a strong sense of kindness and respect.

Values

At St Thomas the Apostle School we value:

Trust – *faith, belief and integrity*

Courage – *the quality of being ready and willing to face new situations and challenges*

Patience – *the capacity to remain calm and*

discernment,

healing of doubt - *persistence*

community – *a strong sense of connectedness, collaboration, cohesion*

Objectives

At St Thomas the Apostle School our objective is to;

- instill in our students a love of learning through explicit instruction and evidence-based teaching strategies.
- develop in our students an understanding of catholic teaching and values central to our community and the world we live in.
- empower our students to build positive relationships with all students and demonstrate care

and respect to others and the environment.

-

Philosophy enactment

At St Thomas the Apostle 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).