

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

Inspired by St Thomas the Apostle, we endeavour to live out our Catholic faith, based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. In partnership with home, parish and the wider community, we are committed to nurturing the faith, learning and wellbeing of every child.

Inspired by St Thomas the Apostle we have the persistence to seek the truth. We are committed to nurturing the faith, learning and wellbeing of every child, fostering a community of love, curiosity and courage. As in the words of St Thomas the Apostle, 'My Lord, My God'.

Vision

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 compassion 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*

Perseverance – *continuing to do or try to achieve something despite difficulty or discouragement*

Community – *a strong sense of connectedness, collaboration, cohesion and welcoming*

Respect – *for self, property and others*

Responsibility – *for personal behaviour and safety, learning dispositions and of social justice issues.*

Objectives

We aim to foster a supportive learning environment characterised by highly effective and engaging learning practices and meaningful experiences. We aim to develop creativity, collaboration and critical thinking.

We aim to nurture our students to build positive relationships and demonstrate care and respect to others and the environment.

We strive to empower individuals to encounter God through wisdom and truth, fostering renewed hope for the future and strengthening partnerships between home, parish, and local and global communities.

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 (atleast once every four years).