



St Columba's
Primary School

School Philosophy Statement



MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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 Columba's 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 Columba's School is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Elwood area.

Mission

As a Catholic school, we are called to act with compassion and empathy, to respect and care for our world and for the most vulnerable and to promote inclusion and provide community.

It is the village feel that captures the hearts of those who choose to enrol their children into St Columba's. The warmth and genuine nurturing environment that they see and feel as they enter, permeates throughout the school and well into our community.

Vision

Now as we enter this next chapter of our school's history we see ourselves as a school for the future:

- A school that has a rich, relevant and engaging approach to learning and teaching while maintaining its tradition of care and wellbeing.
- A school where children truly flourish both academically and socially emotionally.
- A school that works together with its community as partners in education.
- A school where the 21st century is seen as an exciting new frontier where opportunities abound for each child in our care.
- A school that leads the way with sustainable practices and actions.
- A school that keeps at its heart the foundational tenets that it and the parish has been built upon respect, community, inclusion, care for our world and for the most vulnerable.
- A school that clearly sets its sights on providing learning that is engaging, rigorous, purposeful and meets the needs of learning for the future.
- A school that understands its place within the bigger global context and acknowledges and accepts the responsibility and challenges that come with this.

Our history is very much a part of who we are today and as we move forward we will strive to honour our past whilst embracing the challenge and excitement that 'St Columba's- a school for the future', promises our community.

Values

Our motto, 'The little school with a big heart' represents St Columba's unique culture of care, empathy and respect for diversity. This emanates from parish life and our unique association with Sacred Heart Mission, which embody these core values as their central tenets.

Objectives

Our motto 'The little school with a big heart' represents our unique culture of care, empathy and respect for diversity. At our school, your child is never just a number. Our staff ([including our principal](#)) know all the children by name and pride themselves on creating a real sense of inclusiveness. We offer small class sizes and a safe, happy environment that sees and supports your child as a whole person. Not only does this make school a nice place to be, it makes for the best and richest learning experience.

We are an IB World School. We offer the globally-recognised International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme (PYP).

The IB PYP aims 'to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.' Through the program, we will have access to a much broader network of people, resources and high-quality professional development. An IB education equips your child with a shared language, enabling them to move seamlessly into other IB schools here and around the globe. It also prepares your child to transition to secondary school IB or otherwise. [Discover more about the benefits of the IB PYP here.](#)

Led by our Catholic faith, we look beyond our own needs and live guided by God's love. As a Catholic school, we are called to act with compassion and empathy, to respect and care for our world and its most vulnerable, and to promote inclusion and provide community. We put this into practice via our unique association with Sacred Heart Mission, which is part of our parish. Working with our students to instill the importance of supporting the vulnerable, we lead fundraising efforts, visit the elderly in aged care and collect staples for the dining hall.

Philosophy enactment

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).