

# St Joseph's College

## 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 Joseph's College is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

St Joseph's College is a Catholic secondary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the outer-eastern region.

## Mission

At St Joseph's our mission is expressed through our commitment for all students to share in the light of Christ so that they can develop into mature, faith filled young men, able to thrive in an ever changing world. We are fortunate enough to be founded in and supported by the charism and heritage of the Salesians of Don Bosco. Several years ago, Salesian educational leaders from around Australia came together to reflect on the values that should be important in Salesian Schools. It was decided quite early that a measure of success in a Salesian school should not be based on a narrow empirical set of data but within a broader human and faith context. The group emerged from their deliberations with a charter of belief statements, which were to become the pillars of Salesian education in Australia.

## Vision

- To be a Catholic community of adults and young people working and living in mutual respect and harmony within an open, secure and happy atmosphere
- In the tradition of Salesian education, to provide a climate where the Gospel is known, lived and loved so that students may be nurtured in the Catholic faith and their commitment to Jesus Christ
- To help students recognise their academic ability and to accept responsibility for its development
- To maintain a curriculum aimed at the acquisition of values and the discovery of truth
- To provide a learning environment commensurate with individual abilities and interests
- To help students acquire a sensitivity to the views, lifestyles and beliefs of others

## Values

In keeping with the Spirit of St John Bosco whereby Education is a matter of the heart and leads young people to "know that they are loved", the Salesian school community of today is challenged to be:

- A Home that welcomes
- A Parish that evangelises
- A School that prepares for life
- A Playground where friends meet and enjoy themselves

## Objectives

At St Joseph's College, we aim to empower young men to take up their place in a contemporary, global society as valued individuals, alive with the wisdom of the gospel. We aim for them to be 'Good Christians and Honest Citizens'.

## Philosophy enactment

At St Joseph's College, 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).