

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.*

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

Avila College is a Catholic secondary single-sex school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Mount Waverley area.

Mission

We offer Avila girls the best Catholic education and inspire successful futures.

Vision

We give our students options and opportunities to explore and understand what a great future looks like and what it takes to get there.

We teach, guide and support our girls to achieve that vision for themselves.

We challenge them to always strive to be their best ... both today while they're students and tomorrow, long after they have left the College.

Values

As a Presentation inspired Catholic school, our Gospel values of faith, hope and love underpin everything we do. They are fundamental to the way we teach, relate to one another and build relationships with the wider world.

Faith

The response made by a person to God's loving invitation; a personal engagement, a continuing act of loyalty and self-commitment offered to us by God.

Vision

The ability to think about or plan the future with imagination and wisdom.

Action

Not words, but deeds. (Nano Family Motto)

Justice

A concern for, and action towards, fairness, peace and genuine respect for people.

Daring

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure an adventure is a hazardous undertaking of uncertain outcomes.

Community

There is no greater happiness than to be in union.

Compassion

Eyes to see, ears to listen, hearts to feel, hands to comfort the arms of mercy.

Objectives

We inspire our girls today to become successful women tomorrow.

Philosophy enactment

At Avila 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).