

## 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 Francis of Assisi Catholic 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 Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in Mill Park and surrounding suburbs.

## Mission

We encourage open communication between children, teachers and parents to foster understanding, patience, trust, forgiveness and loving concern.

We will foster self-discipline, respect for self and others, and responsible decision making.

We will aim to stimulate and encourage the children's growth in the development of their full potential. As professional educators we realise our responsibility to expand the knowledge and understanding of parents in current educational trends, new programmes in schools, developments, techniques, procedures and teacher expectations. The forum by which this responsibility may be undertaken would include Information Nights, Newsletters and Open Days.

As staff members we will foster and encourage professional development. Through friendship, support and recreational activities we will strive to create a confident and positive outlook for each individual.

We at St. Francis of Assisi, are committed to the continual faith development of our children. We aim to build and develop knowledge and awareness of the Catholic Faith by strengthening and deepening relationships with their family, school, community and Church.

## Vision

St Francis of Assisi Parish Primary School is a gospel centred learning community who live out the teachings of Jesus Christ. We believe that our Catholic faith and lifelong journey is interrelated. We are committed to the continual Faith development of our community where we experience Jesus through our faith and daily life, recognising that the Spirit is alive in people.

Learning at St Francis enables the formation of knowledge, capabilities and values. We believe that this fosters meaningful engagement in learning in order to become informed, empowered and active global citizens in a contemporary and connected world.

We value opportunities for learning and reflection that challenge us to aspire to individual excellence, whilst maintaining the dignity and worth of the whole person.

## Values

At St Francis of Assisi Primary School, we value integrity, inquiry, excellence, spirituality, a sense of community and respect. Our values set out expectations for all members of the school community.

## Objectives

At St Francis of Assisi Primary School, we aim to empower young men to take their place in a contemporary, global society as valued individuals, alive with the wisdom of the gospel.

## Philosophy enactment

At St Francis of Assisi Primary 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).