

# 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.*

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

Catholic Regional College St Albans is a Catholic secondary co-educational school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the St Albans, Kings Park, Kealba, Keilor Downs, Cairnlea and Deer Park areas.

## Mission

At Catholic Regional College St Albans, we strive to live as people of faith and hope, people who are open to the wonder and possibilities that the Kingdom of God will bring. Central to our mission is Jesus' call to love one another as he loved us. His invitation is simple yet challenging.

## Vision

### **GOD CREATED US IN HIS OWN IMAGE .....**

We believe that each person is sacred and must be treated with dignity and respect.

### **IT IS THROUGH GIVING AND RECEIVING LOVE THAT WE GROW.....**

We hope that the school is a secure and welcoming place where students, their families and staff experience belonging, support and trust.

### **EACH OF US IN THIS SCHOOL COMMUNITY IS:**

- ***God's Work of Art.***

We celebrate the uniqueness of each person, embrace difference, appreciate our essential interdependence and seek to build strong, positive relationships that respect and value diversity.

- ***An earthen vessel entrusted with the light of Christ.***

We are aware that young people are at many different stages in their faith and personal development. We recognize that it is important to support them as they search and question, and to continually invite them to see the possibilities within themselves.

- ***Talented and holds within them great gifts.***

We see learning as a lifelong opportunity to discover our particular gifts and talents, and invite students to explore their personal potential through challenging learning experiences. Our approach to learning is person centred, holistic and integrates spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical development.

- ***Called to be just and forgiving.***

We understand that growth involves risk and the freedom to try things. In this process each of us will make mistakes, and with support will learn and grow from our experiences.

- ***Called to make God part of our lives.***

We believe that reflection and stillness need to be part of a balanced life for staff and students, as it is only in the quiet of our hearts that we become aware of what God is calling us to be. The Eucharist and prayer continue to be our cornerstone.

- ***Invited to make Christ visible in our constantly changing world.***

As members of the global community it is important that our students learn to live in right relationship with others, their environment and themselves. They will need to be responsible, compassionate and active citizens who work towards creating a world where all people are treated with justice and have equal worth and dignity.

Catholic Regional College St Albans is a 'Work in Progress' and we are aware that our work is far from finished. We continue to search for new ways to live the Eucharist: to care for each other, to learn together and to grow as a dynamic community of faith.

A spirit of daring to believe that anything is possible brought about the beginning of the College and is at the heart of the St Albans community. We take pride in this tradition and through our response to Jesus' invitation to love we hope to continue God's Work in Progress.

## Values

At Catholic Regional College St Albans, we value respect, learning, support, understanding, equality and community. Our values set out expectations for all members of the school community and we work to build *positive relationships* and a safe and welcoming school environment, one where each person is free to *learn* and to achieve their personal best

## Objectives

At Catholic Regional College, St Albans, we aim to empower young people to be the best they can be with God's grace.

## Philosophy enactment

At Catholic Regional College St Albans, 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).