



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

St. Josephs is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Brunswick West Mission.

Mission

Our Mission is inspired by our patron saint, St. Joseph the father figure. In 2020, Pope Francis announced that 2021 would be a special year dedicated to St. Joseph. His reasoning was clear: St. Joseph “is not a holy card to keep in your pocket,” but rather a constant example of love and dedication and a true source of inspiration for all parents.

St. Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of Saint Joseph (the Josephites) also guide and inspire us to, as Mary MacKillop said, “Never see a need without doing something about it.”

St. Joseph’s School draws upon the charism of St. Mary MacKillop and the Sisters of Saint Joseph (the Josephites) and the example of Joseph the ever-loving father in our mission to bring students to know the teachings of Jesus Christ more fully.

We strive to be a place that is committed to building the necessary knowledge, skills and learner qualities for students to strive and succeed in learning and life.

We aim to have a supportive and active community who involve themselves in our school.

Our staff are passionate educators who navigate the current changing educational and social landscape to ensure that each learner experiences success in their learning.

Vision

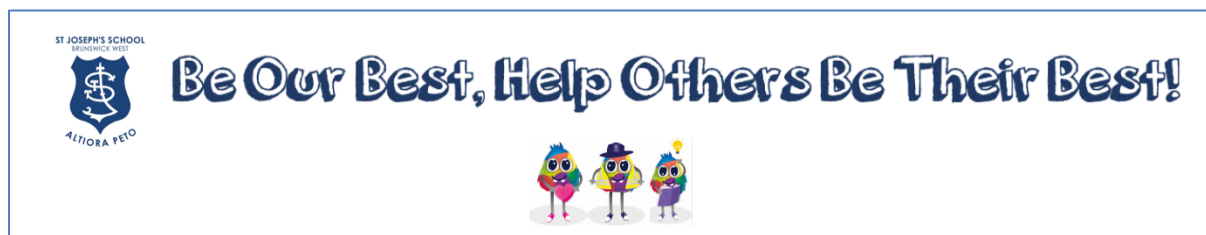


Values

St. Joseph's School, through the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) framework, works to develop the following values in our school:



The children are encouraged to strive towards the following statement:



St Joseph's School is committed to providing a high quality learning environment. Our teachers are highly effective in their roles, committed to being lifelong learners, implementing and evaluating their practice against evidence based pedagogy and collaborating with their colleagues.

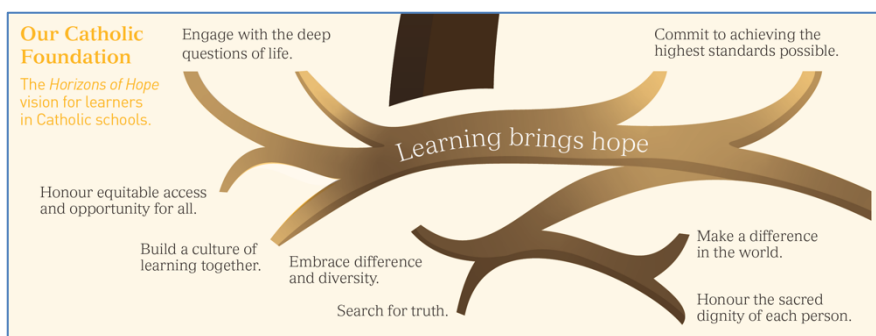
We provide an inclusive learning environment that promotes the development of our learning qualities, critical thinking skills and the use of digital technology.

Objectives

At St Joseph's School we:

- **honour the sacred dignity of each person** - believing that everyone can experience success and be supported to see their lives as being shaped by the God who is work in all of creation
- **search for truth** - continuously critiquing, questioning, inquiring, imagining and re-imagining themselves and their world in an ongoing engagement with Catholic beliefs and practices
- **embrace difference and diversity** - as the context for dialogue, engagement and a deeper understanding of self, others and God
- **build a culture of learning together** – through collaboration and life-giving relationships which enable all to flourish

- **engage with the deep questions of life** - constantly opening up spaces of meaning which engage Catholic faith with what matters most in the minds and hearts of the students
- **honour equitable access and opportunity for all** - with a particular commitment to those most in need
- **commit to achieving the highest standards possible** - based on reflective practice, using data, research and evidence to ensure progress and growth in learning
- **make a difference in the world** - inspired by the Gospel and led by the Holy Spirit to grow in virtue and act for justice and the common good



Philosophy enactment

The Philosophy and Vision of the school is at the centre of our focus and there are expectations about all work aligning with the vision. Regular evaluation processes are in place to measure performance in all areas of the school with respect to the implementation of the vision and values of the school. All documentation will reflect the set of practices of the school. This includes organisational structures, teaching and learning practices and programs, internal and external interactions, School Advisory Council and community programs. A detailed list of school policies sit within this framework as part of VRQA quality assurance requirements.

Our belief that every child is successful is our approach to learning. An organised structure of attributes, principles and understandings expressed in the design of our curriculum ensures the students are aware of 'where they are at' with their learning 'where they need to get to' and 'how to get there'.

Our highly skilled staff provide programs based upon team curriculum design, authoritative research and theories, school priorities and most importantly individual student needs.

At St. Joseph's School, our school philosophy, which includes the vision, mission, values and objectives, guides 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).