

# 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 Anthony's 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 Anthony's Primary School is a Catholic Primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Lara area.

## Vision

**St Anthony's is a Catholic faith community, which inspires and celebrates a love of learning.**

## Mission

Inspired by the spirit of St Anthony of Padua, teacher and light of the Church, we are a learning community where culture, faith and life are interwoven.

At St Anthony's:

We inspire students to be faith filled people who hear the word of God and respond with authenticity.

We encourage students to be critical thinkers about faith and life. They are able to express their views in respectful ways in an environment, which values and encourages the voice of the young.

We challenge students to collaborate and accept responsibility for their own learning and the learning of others. They demonstrate resilience in all facets of their learning.

We inspire our students to become authentic leaders. They will have an understanding of their place in both our local and global community and endeavor to make a positive difference in the world.

We commit ourselves to personalize learning where targeted and explicit teaching is a key component.

We create a faith community where families, staff, children and parishioners feel a sense of inclusion, belonging and connectedness. We demonstrate compassion to those in need and in particular to those most vulnerable.

We build a community where children feel safe and secure and value diversity.

We live out our mission on a daily basis as our students develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions to live whole heartedly in the world as faith filled people.

## Values

**RESILIENCE, COMPASSION, BE OUR BEST, RESPONSIBILITY, and RESPECT**

## Objectives

At St Anthony's we provide the best learning and teaching experiences, resources and programs to ensure students are supported to extend and drive their own learning and develop their own social and emotional wellbeing. Students are empowered through opportunities for student voice and student agency. They have the power to influence change and are involved in decision making and influencing the direct of their learning.

Our students strive to master core competencies in Mathematics and Literacy in a supportive learning environment. We encourage hands on learning that promotes critical thinking, environmental education and practical skills that supports students to become effective collaborators and communicators, empowered decision makers, and willing risk takers.

## Philosophy enactment

At St Anthony's, 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).