

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.*

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

Sacred Heart Girls' College is a Catholic secondary, single-sex school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Oakleigh area and surrounds.

Mission

Sacred Heart Girls' College is a Catholic secondary school inspired by the charism of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (RNDM).

We nurture an inclusive and diverse culture, fostering life-long learning and a commitment to social justice.

The College provides a dynamic environment that educates young people to be compassionate, discerning, resilient and true to our motto, Always Striving Upwards.

Vision

In the spirit of the RNDM Sisters, we aspire to honour the uniqueness and gifts of each person by:

- Enriching spirituality and celebrating our Catholic identity and heritage
- Promoting excellence in wellbeing and learning
- Adopting ethical and responsible practices that ensure sustainable use of resources
- Demonstrating outward looking leadership and service
- Fostering a safe community where all are treated with respect and dignity
- Providing opportunities to be innovative and responsive to a changing world
- Challenging each student to discover their personal attributes and strengths to engage with local and global issues

Goals

At Sacred Heart Girls' College our five key goals are centered around identity, learning, excellence, stewardship and community.

- To enrich and live out our Catholic identity inspired by the RNDM Charism.
- To be a collaborative, creative, reflective and innovative learning community.
- To build a culture of excellence through continuous improvement.
- To govern, lead and manage resources ethically, responsibly and sustainably.
- To develop authentic, purposeful partnerships and relationships within and beyond the school community.

Philosophy enactment

At Sacred Heart Girls' 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).