

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

St. Richard's is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the suburb of Kilsyth and surrounding suburbs.

## Mission

At St. Richards, our mission is to inspire our school community with the words of our patron saint, St. Richard of Chichester.

### **Know Thee More Clearly:**

We are dedicated to helping our students foster a deep understanding of God's presence in their lives through comprehensive religious education nurturing our students' knowledge of God.

### **Love Thee More Dearly:**

We create a nurturing and faith-filled environment that fosters a profound love for God that is unwavering and passionate. Through prayer, worship, and acts of kindness, we encourage our students to cultivate a deep and abiding love for God, embracing His love as a cornerstone of their lives and sharing that love with others.

### **Follow Thee More Nearly:**

We instil in our students a strong commitment to live according to the teachings of Christ in their daily actions. Through service, social justice activities and outreach programs, we empower them to translate their faith into compassionate and purposeful deeds, becoming true disciples of Christ who strive to make a positive impact on the world and live out their faith in all they do.

## Vision

### ***Living the Gospel, Learning Together, Creating our Future***

***Living the Gospel*** - Our vision is to be a welcoming and safe Catholic school that inspires community members to live out the gospel messages through their actions in everyday life.

***Learning Together*** - We aspire to achieve excellence in all areas of school life. We empower our community to learn together to develop mind, spirit and body.

***Creating our Future*** - We encourage our students to critically reflect on our world and become active global citizens who strive to create positive change for future generations.

## Values

At St. Richard's Primary School, we value:

***Respect***- for self, property and others.

***Responsibility*** – for personal behavior and safety, learning dispositions and of social justice issues.

***Resilience*** – showing confidence, persistence and Growth Mindset.

***Integrity***- showing honesty and consistency in our actions.

***Compassion***- guided by our Christian values - show love and kindness for all and by Australia's first patron saint Mary MacKillop – “never see a need without doing something about it.”

*It is an expectation that the **Four Bees** – (Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe and Be a Learner) support our teaching and learning of the values. Our values guide our expectations for all members of the school community.*

## Objectives

At St Richard's our objective is to;

- instill in our students a love of learning
- develop an understanding of what it means to live the gospel in today's world
- foster engaged learners who work collaboratively and respectfully to develop lifelong skills
- Empower our students to contribute within our contemporary global society.

## Philosophy enactment

At St. Richard'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. Each family will receive a copy of the Philosophy Statement upon enrolment.

## 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).

## Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by the School Advisory Council on 06.03.2024
--