

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.*

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

Simonds Catholic College is a Catholic secondary single-sex school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the inner city of Melbourne.

Mission

The Simonds Catholic College community, united in faith, inspires young men to become active, global citizens. Guided by Gospel values, we provide a safe and supportive learning environment in which each student is individually known. We challenge our students to become courageous, resilient and hope-filled.

Vision

OUR VISION is to develop confident, well-rounded young men who have hope for their future.

Values

- Catholic beliefs and teachings, particularly those relating to justice, charity and compassion. We encourage everyone to give of themselves, allocating time and other resources to people who are in need, both within and beyond the school community
- pastoral programs that promote an appreciation for the whole person. We foster a spirit of mateship that strengthens through the school years, forging lifelong bonds;
- respectful behaviour. We strive to provide a collaborative and supportive learning culture that recognises the dignity of each person. Respect for self, others and the environment is intrinsic to school life;
- inclusivity, respecting people of all cultures, genders and religions who act in empathy with our values;
- fully committed teachers who provide contemporary and purposeful learning for all students;
- motivated students who actively pursue excellence and assume responsibility for their own learning.

Objectives

At Simonds Catholic College, we aim to empower young men to take their place in a contemporary, global society as valued individuals, alive with the wisdom of the gospel.

Philosophy enactment

At Simonds Catholic 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).