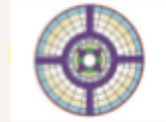


# School Philosophy Statement



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

## Mission

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to nurturing a vibrant Catholic learning community where every child is inspired to inquire, ignite their curiosity, and be uplifted in God's presence. Grounded in our vision of educational excellence, we strive to develop learners who are imaginative, resilient, and equipped with the knowledge and competencies needed to thrive in an ever-changing world.

We are dedicated to providing high-quality, differentiated learning opportunities that meet each child at their point of need and support them to achieve success. Guided by the Victorian Curriculum, our passionate and skilled educators engage in ongoing professional learning, collaborate deeply, and implement evidence-based pedagogy to ensure that every student grows academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

St Joseph's values an inclusive and supportive environment where critical thinking, creativity, and responsible use of digital technologies are integral to learning. We celebrate strong partnerships with families and our Parish community, recognising that shared engagement enriches school life and strengthens student outcomes.

Together, we educate hearts and minds—developing responsible citizens, lifelong learners, and young people who seek truth, act with kindness, and contribute positively to the world.

## Vision

St Joseph's Primary School values a Catholic environment of educational excellence that ignites the imagination, develops good citizenship and creates a lifelong search for knowledge.

Inquire, Ignite, Inspire in God's Presence.

## Values

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Mernda, we are a community grounded in faith, inspired by learning, and committed to nurturing the full flourishing of every child. Guided by our vision to *Inquire, Ignite, Inspire in God's Presence*, our values express who we are and what we expect from every member of our school community—students, staff, families, and parish partners.

### Our Values

#### Integrity

We act with honesty, responsibility and fairness. We strive to do what is right, even when it is difficult, and model the Gospel values that guide our Catholic identity.

#### Inquiry

We cultivate curiosity, questioning and a love of learning. Students are encouraged to wonder, explore and make meaning, supported by teaching that aligns with the MACS Vision for Engaging and Rigorous Instruction.

#### Excellence

We commit to achieving our personal best and supporting others to do the same. Our learning programs, informed by the Victorian Curriculum and evidence-based practice, challenge students to grow in knowledge, skill and confidence.

#### Spirituality

We recognise God's presence in our lives and honour the dignity of every person. Through prayer, reflection and participation in the life of the Church, we strengthen our sense of purpose and faith.

#### Community

We value strong partnerships between students, families, staff and our Parish. We believe that learning and wellbeing are enhanced when relationships are respectful, collaborative and inclusive.

### Respect

We treat ourselves, others and our environment with kindness and care. We celebrate diversity and ensure that every individual feels valued, safe and heard.

## Our Values in Action

At St Joseph's, our values guide daily teaching, learning and behaviour. In line with the MACS Vision for Engagement and Instruction:

- We design learning that is purposeful, challenging and engaging.
- We create supportive, structured environments where students feel safe to take risks in their learning.
- We build strong, respectful relationships that empower students to become active participants in their education.
- We use digital technologies responsibly and ethically, fostering critical thinkers who contribute positively to their world.

Together, our values shape a community where imagination is ignited, citizenship is strengthened, and every learner is inspired to seek truth and excellence in God's presence.

## Objectives

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Mernda, our objectives reflect our commitment to nurturing students who are confident, capable, and grounded in the wisdom of the Gospel. Guided by our vision to *Inquire, Ignite, Inspire in God's Presence*, we work to create a learning environment where every child can flourish—spiritually, academically, socially, and emotionally.

### Our Objectives

#### 1. Empower learners for a contemporary, global world

We strive to equip students with the knowledge, skills and dispositions they need to thrive in a rapidly changing society. Through rich learning experiences, critical thinking, digital literacy and problem-solving, we empower students to engage with the world as informed and active citizens.

#### 2. Form young people alive with the wisdom of the Gospel

We foster a deep sense of faith, compassion and moral responsibility. Our students learn to act with integrity, kindness and justice, guided by Catholic teachings and inspired by the life and example of Jesus.

#### 3. Deliver engaging and high-quality instruction

Aligned with the MACS Vision for Engagement and Instruction, we provide learning that is purposeful, challenging, and responsive to individual needs. Our teachers design and deliver evidence-based programs that support students to achieve excellence and experience success.

#### 4. Support personalised and inclusive learning

We provide differentiated opportunities that meet students at their zone of proximal development. By valuing each learner's strengths, needs and aspirations, we create a learning environment where diversity is celebrated and every student can grow.

#### 5. Build strong, respectful and connected relationships

We cultivate a welcoming and supportive community where students, families, staff and parish partners work together. We recognise that meaningful relationships foster engagement, wellbeing and a sense of belonging.

#### 6. Promote safe, ethical and responsible use of digital technologies

We prepare students to be thoughtful digital citizens who use technology with care, respect and integrity. Our programs develop students' awareness of online safety, responsible behaviour and ethical decision-making.

#### 7. Inspire lifelong learning and curiosity

We ignite imagination and encourage inquiry so that students develop a lifelong love of learning. Our aim is for every child to leave St Joseph's confident, curious and inspired to continue seeking truth and excellence.

## Philosophy enactment

Our philosophy calls us to *Inquire, Ignite, Inspire in God's Presence* and to nurture young people who are alive with the wisdom of the Gospel. This vision is enacted daily through evidence-based instruction, strong relationships, and a commitment to educational excellence. Our mission to empower learners for a contemporary, global society informs the design of our curriculum, the use of digital technologies, and the creation of a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment.

Our values—integrity, inquiry, excellence, spirituality, community and respect—set clear expectations for students, staff and families. These values underpin our behaviour expectations, shape our wellbeing approaches, and guide the way we work together as a connected and compassionate community. Likewise, our objectives drive our ongoing commitment to personalised learning, high-impact instruction aligned with the MACS Vision for Engagement and Instruction, and the development of responsible, ethical, and confident learners.

At St Joseph's, our philosophy is a living document. It is reflected in:

- our teaching practices and classroom environments
- our approach to child safety and wellbeing
- our engagement with families and our Parish
- our decision-making and leadership
- our policies, including enrolment, wellbeing, assessment and digital technologies
- our commitment to fostering faith, learning and community.

To ensure transparency and shared understanding, our school philosophy is published on our website and is embedded throughout our key policies and documentation, including our enrolment processes. It is regularly reviewed to ensure it continues to reflect our Catholic identity, educational priorities and the needs of our learners.

Through this ongoing enactment, St Joseph's strives to create a community where every child is valued, inspired and equipped to flourish—now and into the future.

## 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).