

School Philosophy Statement



Good Samaritan Catholic Primary School is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS).

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.

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Good Samaritan Catholic Primary School has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Roxburgh Park and surrounding suburbs.

Mission

To walk with Christ - sharing in prayer, word and sacrament, searching to know and love our God;

To walk with Christ - inspired to fully use our gifts for learning to create an environment of challenge, discovery and innovation;

To walk with Christ - sharing a deep commitment to and responsibility for each other so building an inclusive community that is just and compassionate.

Vision

We seek to be a contemporary Catholic learning community in which our students, their families and the school staff journey together with Christ on a pilgrimage of learning and revelation to make real and present the promise of the Kingdom of God.

Values

The charism of the school provides a constant reminder to our community that just like the Good Samaritan, we too can be a life-giving influence of mercy, compassion, respect, justice and excellence with each person we encounter.

Mercy

We act with kindness and with a heart full of love.

Compassion

We seek to understand the needs of others and are willing to help them.

Justice

We treat everyone fairly, recognising that each individual has both rights and responsibilities.

Respect

We value the sacredness and dignity of each person.

Excellence

We strive to be the very best we can possibly be.

Learning for A Life Fully Lived

The promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic School

(Pope John Paul II, 1991)

At Good Samaritan Catholic Primary School we understand the Gospel truth that we are all called to 'have life and have it abundantly' (Jn 10:10), so our commitment is to the complete development of each child – spiritually, emotionally, socially, intellectually and physically.

Created in the image and likeness of God, each of us is creative, oriented to life and love, and filled with infinite possibility. As such, in each person we can reveal something of God, which provides each person with a unique dignity that deserves unconditional respect.

Therefore, at the heart of our learning and teaching process is the child and how he or she may come into the fullness of their own unique self.

Through immersion in a safe, inclusive and positive learning culture at school we seek to lead students to develop awe and wonder about the world and a deeply held sense of personal responsibility for self, others and all creation. We will seek to encourage them to act as agents of change and be confident that they can contribute to the greater good.

Our School's curriculum will be distinctive by the ways in which Gospel values are integrated into all learning areas. The starting point for all curriculum decisions will be the students themselves and their individual needs.

Our dream for each child is a life fully lived.

As children journey through their pilgrimage of learning and revelation....



Our Pilgrim Journey

Our Catholic tradition calls us to be a pilgrim people, journeying together as we walk with Christ toward the fullness of the Kingdom. In the same way, each individual person makes his or her own pilgrim journey; a journey of personal discovery and revelation. This is learning in its truest sense.

As pilgrims we understand that our story is never fully written, so our plans are never fully realised; we are constantly drawing upon our tradition and also being called into new ways of growing and renewing ourselves. Pilgrims are explorers and risk takers. They search, reflect and contemplate. Pilgrims are learners. It is in this context in which we will approach the next phase in the development of Good Samaritan Catholic Primary School.

Philosophy enactment

At Good Samaritan Catholic Primary School, 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.