

St Luke's Wantirna

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

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



It is because of our belief in the person and words of Jesus Christ that we place Him in the centre of the life of our Catholic school. Therefore we are motivated to create a climate permeated with the Gospel spirit.

St Luke's School is committed to the development of the whole person. Through the assimilation of skills, knowledge, moral and social attitudes, each person is encouraged to take his/her place as a creative member of the community.

Our belief is that every person has an innate and special worth. Therefore, at St Luke's School we endeavour to create an atmosphere in which all who experience the community may grow in their own richness, fullness and integrity. Our administration, including financial, works towards creating this atmosphere. We believe this can be achieved in the knowledge of God's love for each of us, and by an increasing awareness of a response to His Presence in our lives.

"The Catholic school tries to create within its walls a climate in which our students' faith will gradually mature and enable them to assume the responsibility bestowed by Baptism." (The Catholic School, The Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education, P.38)

We see this Catholic School as a vital part of the Parish community, with the Parish Priest as the leader of the Parish community and the principal as the administrator of the Parish school. As Pastor of the Parish community, the Parish Priest is seen as an integral part of the education and growth in faith of the children in the Parish school. The Principal and the school staff cooperate with and assist him in the fulfillment of this obligation through the religious education program which is carried out in the school and which shall be in accord with diocesan policies and guidelines.

Parents are the first and foremost educators of their children. Christian values and attitudes are taught primarily in the home, teachers, by work and example can merely reinforce these. The parents' privilege and responsibility to educate their children can be delegated in part, but never relinquished to the school.

We see the school community as an extension of the family. Therefore, parents must be involved in and work collaboratively with the school, as part of the team, if their children are to benefit from the Catholic Christian education.

The staff of this school understands that we share responsibility with the parents in awakening, nurturing and developing the child in their life of faith, and by embracing and communicating the teachings and heritage of the Catholic Church - bearing in mind the age and development of these primary school children.

It is desired that all members of our school community will work towards providing a happy and secure environment for all the children at St Luke's.

Vision

"I have come that you may have life and have it to the full" John 10:10

Values

The St Luke's school values are:

- Respect - showing regard and appreciation for the worth of someone or something.
- Empathy - being sensitive to the feelings and needs of others by understanding and caring.
- Resilience - the capacity to cope with change and challenge and bounce back during difficult times.
- Responsibility - being accountable for the choices that we make for ourselves, others and the environment.
- Integrity - helps you listen to your conscience to do the right thing and to tell the truth. You act

with integrity when your positive words and actions match.

These are directly aligned with the 'Australian Values' and reflect our school vision, 'I have come that you may have life and have it to the full'.



At St Luke's School, 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.

At St Luke's we are educating students for the future so that they can be adults that are productive and fulfilling members of our community. The learning and teaching programs are designed to consider the skills and attitudes that will be required for each learner into the future.

We recognise that our students are unique individuals who learn at their own developmental pace, respond to a stimulating and non-threatening environment and grow through love and genuine care.

We are a school that values parents as the first educators and understand the important role that parents play. We respect and encourage this joint responsibility we share in educating our children.

Philosophy enactment

At St Luke's 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 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).