

# 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.*

Our Lady of the Way Kingsbury is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

Our Lady of the Way Kingsbury is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Kingsbury area.

## Mission

Madonna Della Strada (Italian for Our Lady of the Way) is the patroness of the Society of Jesus. Its founder, Ignatius of Loyola, was said to have been protected by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary during battle in his service as a soldier. On returning from battle, Ignatius would stop and pay homage to the image of his protector (the Madonna holding the baby Jesus) painted on the exterior wall of Saint Mary of the Way in Rome. It is believed that the image was first painted on the church wall around the 5th Century AD. This Church was later given to Saint Ignatius by Pope Paul III in 1540 and became the first Church of the Jesuits.

As members of Our Lady of the Way Parish we believe that like Ignatius, we too are 'Blessed' – we are loved by God, and that Mary is our 'Protector' and 'Guide' who invites us into a closer relationship with God and with one another. As the mother of Jesus, she was his first teacher who nurtured his understanding of his mission. May she continue to nurture us too as we come together to celebrate faith, learning and life.

## Vision

Our Lady of the Way Primary School fosters inclusiveness based on faith, learning and community partnerships. We seek to embrace the spirit, enlighten the mind, and awaken the whole individual, empowering them to become an active global citizen.

## Values

As an inclusive, dynamic and vibrant learning community we will proclaim our Catholic Identity, actively seek to build strong relationships and partnerships within and beyond our community, and develop the capacity of all to lead and shape the world for the common good.

## Philosophy enactment

At Our Lady of the Way Kingsbury, 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).