

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 Gregory the Great 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 Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School is a Catholic primary co-ed school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Doncaster area.

Mission

St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary school is called to serve the children and families of St Gregory the Great Parish, Doncaster.

In fulfilment of our mission, we at St Gregory the Great school will:

- As disciples of Jesus Christ, heed his call to be a centre of evangelisation for children and
- their families, encouraging them to full sacramental participation in the life of the church which He founded
- Willingly accept the mandate of, and directives regarding, Catholic education from the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne
- Be an inseparable component of the parish of St. Gregory the Great actively bearing witness to the Catholic faith in all our activities
- Adhere to, and teach the practices, teachings, and beliefs of the Catholic church
- Encourage our children to develop a loving relationship with God and encourage them to live out the gospel values in their own lives
- Work in partnership with parents as the primary educators of their children
- Encourage families to be active in the life of the parish and school
- Implement a broad curriculum to encourage children to reach their full potential spiritually, socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically
- Provide for our children, challenging experiences tailored to:
 - meet their individual needs
 - encourage the development of self esteem and an awareness of their gifts
 - develop a sense of responsibility and a desire to serve others - engender a lifelong love of learning
- Without prejudice to Catholic teachings the programs and teaching of St Gregory the Great school will support and promote the principles and practices of Australian democracy including a commitment to the elected government, the rule of law, equal rights for all before the law, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and association and the values of openness and tolerance.

In fulfilment of this part of our mission we, at St Gregory the Great school, will prepare our children to take their place in an ever-changing society, confident of their own individuality, and accepting and respectful of the individual differences of all people.

Vision

St Gregory the Great School
is called to serve the children and families
of St Gregory the Great Parish
and the wider community.
We hold and teach the beliefs and practices
of the Catholic church,
engage with parents,
and inspire in our children
a passion for
Loving and Learning.

Values

At St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School, we value integrity, inquiry, excellence, spirituality, a sense of community and respect. Our values set out expectations for all members of the school community.

Objectives

At St Gregory the Great Catholic Primary School, we aim to empower young children to take their place in a contemporary, global society as valued individuals, alive with the wisdom of the gospel. Philosophy enactment

At St Gregory the Great 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 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).