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

St Gerard's is a Catholic primary, co-ed school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Dandenong North area.

Mission and Vision

Our mission is inspired by the St Gerard Majella charism.

St. Gerard's is a Christ centered Catholic community that believes in the Gospel values of faith and love. We endeavour to live our lives according to these values through …

Inclusion –
We are a multicultural school, which encourages the inclusion of all people. This inclusiveness both enriches and promotes the growth of our unique St. Gerard's community.

Community Spirit –
Enlivened by the Spirit of God, we are committed to supporting with love and understanding the children in our care and their families.

Education –
We are committed to developing the potential of each student, which will empower them to achieve individual success, develop their self-esteem and inspire them with a lifelong love of learning that will equip them for their contemporary world.

Justice –
Inspired by Christ's message of "love for one another", we endeavour to foster a sense of peace, respect and equality, promoting justice for all.

Values

At St Gerard's, we have developed our Give Me Five Principles through our Positive Behaviours in Learning Framework. These principles of Be Spirit-Filled, Be Positive, Be Your Best, Be Respectful and Be Cooperative are at the core of all that we do. These values set out expectations for all members of the school community.

Objectives

At St Gerard's, we aim to provide each student with a highly effective and orderly contemporary teaching and learning environment, where opportunities are provided through collaboration, student agency and decisions based on data. Bound by Catholic faith and tradition we do this in partnership with parents to ensure the full flourishing of all students.

Philosophy enactment

At St Gerard's, 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).