

School Philosophy Statement



Our Lady of the Way Catholic Parish Primary School, Wallan east is part of the mission of the Catholic Church serving and providing opportunities for life in the Catholic Parish of St Patrick's Kilmore.

It honours the diversity of the children and families entrusted to it, shaping its endeavours so that all are drawn forward within its mission, formed by the teachings of Jesus Christ, the Church and the inspired Our Lady, our Good Mother and guide

Our Lady of the Way Catholic Parish Primary School is a place of optimism, excitement and challenge, where students, parents and staff see each day as a journey, full of purpose, where intellectual engagement and connectedness to the real world are priorities. Personalizing learning is vital to the success of each child's unique development and preparation for a rapidly changing society, confident, resilient and hopeful.

As a learning community this school thrives in a diverse and flexible environment where an inseparable relationship has been created between innovation, sustainable design and a deep knowledge of how children learn. The learning spaces are flexible, adaptable and aesthetic, embracing the importance of interaction, communication and collaboration; enabling the learning community to share and learn from each other. The provision of state of the art technology resources is integral to the school's belief of accessing both the local and global communities.

School leaders will develop a wellbeing culture across the school, and will have a strong presence in the community and broader Parish. The vision of the school will be to reach out, providing structures, processes and procedures for creating links between student wellbeing and improved learning outcomes.

Every student, teacher, parent and community member is accepted and invited to make a contribution to a vibrant school community that seeks to fire the imagination, develop good citizenship and promote a lifelong thirst for God and learning.

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 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 is a Catholic Primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Southern part of the Mitchell Shire.

Mission

Each student is at the centre of all that we do. Our Lady of the Way has a genuine focus on developing a love of learning, a strong sense of self and the skills and attitudes to be successful in our changing world. It is a community where positive relationships and belief in people are at the core of what we do. We believe in the promotion of positive education where wellbeing and learning connect ensuring the flourishing and growth of each individual. We believe that building a capacity of self and wellbeing is as important as academic pursuits.

We respect the dignity of every person in our community. We promote and value that each person is an individual, diverse and different in his or her own way. Aligning with the *MACS 2030* framework, Our Lady of the Way is a community inspired by faith, where learners are enabled to experience success and a love of learning, learners have the opportunity to flourish. Our systematic approach to supporting staff and students promotes our enriched community.

In our Contemporary world we recognise the importance of the development of the whole child- spiritually, intellectually, morally, physically, socially and emotionally. Within this ever-changing world we strive to ensure our children are enlivened by the life of Jesus and have a strong sense of respect, compassion and justice. We encourage our students to continually explore, question, wonder and create inciting curiosity and thinking about the world around them making meaning and understanding.

We are committed to the highest of expectations based on data and evidence promoting growth and success for every person. We promote achievement of high academic standards through the connection of learning and life where students can make the necessary meaning from their learning. We promote our students being drivers in their learning and being active citizens committed to making a difference within the world around them.

Vision

Inspired by Mary as the First Disciple and

Guided by the life of Jesus Christ,

Our Lady of the Way Catholic Parish Primary School

Is a place of positivity, enjoyment, excellence and challenge...

Where every student, teacher, parent and community member is

Accepted and encouraged to be a contributor;

Where we seek to inspire in students a passion for life, a love of learning and a desire to be of service to others

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart (Lk 2:19)

Values

At Our lady of the Way we value Positive Behaviours for Learning which is a framework that helps schools to plan and implement practices across the whole school in order to improve educational and behavioural outcomes for all students.

The PBL framework is founded on a positive approach to whole school wellbeing with targeted approaches for students with higher levels of need. It allows for positive feedback and reinforcement of agreed upon behaviours, allowing for a whole community ownership.

At Our Lady of the Way our Positive Behaviour for Learning focuses on Respect, Resilience, Responsibility and Safety.

Objectives

At Our Lady of the Way, children are encouraged to be the best version of themselves.

Our intention in accordance with the School Improvement Plan (2022-2025) is to establish and embed an 'Our Lady of the Way' culture of learning. Using Cultures of Thinking (Ritchhart), we will empower students to engage in their learning, embed an 'Our Lady of the Way' instructional model and engage parents as partners in learning.

Philosophy enactment

At Our Lady of the Way, 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).