

# 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.*

Ave Maria College is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

Ave Maria College is a Catholic girl's secondary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the inner Northern Suburbs of Melbourne.

## Mission

We follow Mary's model for life. Mary invites us to trust in the truth of God's love and the truth within ourselves. In our teaching, learning and relationships, we are seekers of Truth and people of Love. Mary teaches us humility and strength; leading the way to a relationship with God.

We are inspired by a Franciscan way of knowing Jesus. St Francis of Assisi invites us to imitate Jesus who took the side of the vulnerable and drew all into a shared humanity through inclusion and peace. Francis teaches us to delight in God's gifts to us; shared, grown and sustained for all. Created in God's image, we are called to see the face of God in others. Drawn from the Gospels, we profess the Franciscan values of peace, justice, simplicity and compassion, such that "All may be One" (John 17:21).

We value Helene de Chappotin's vision for education; that learning is for fullness of life for all. Learning excellence at Ave Maria is contemporary and collaborative, rigorous and relevant. Every member of our community contributes to a learning culture of endeavour and excellence. Together, we develop a love for learning and a readiness to contribute to the world.

We are strengthened by St Clare of Assisi, a woman of firm faith, commitment and sisterly love. The young women of Ave Maria are educated to develop a strong sense of self, sisterly love for others and generous action in the world. We come to know ourselves in our relationships with each other. This is central to our understanding of wellbeing, resilience and growth.

Together, we strive for Ave Maria College to be a learning community of Truth and Love.

## Vision

At Ave Maria College we strive to educate strong women of Truth and Love.

## Values

Ave Maria College is a welcoming and nurturing environment for young women, guided by the Franciscan values of Truth, Love, Peace and Compassion. Our College motto of '*Striving for Truth through Love*' - inspires us to learn about ourselves, our relationships with others and the world around us, so that we can belong, engage, grow and thrive.

## Objectives

At Ave Maria College, we foster a culture of rigorous academic achievement, underpinned by self-confidence and a deep relationship with God. It is through these principles and the pillars of faith, learning, community and growth that our students leave the College thriving – both personally and professionally – empowered to shape their own pathway and future.

## Philosophy enactment

At Ave Maria College 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).