

# St James the Apostle Primary School 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 James the Apostle 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 James the Apostle Primary School is a Catholic co-ed primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Hoppers Crossing area.

## Mission

We aim to impart Catholic beliefs, values, practices and traditions within a faith-filled community.

We strive to create a love of learning while building our identity within the context of the Parish community.

We aim to be living examples of that Faith, fostering the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of each person.

We work in partnership together striving to strengthen our communication through involvement of all in our community in collaborative and co-operative decision making, working towards common goals.

We value the gifts and talents of each member, which are shared and nurtured in an accepting and safe environment.

In striving for excellence in education at St James the Apostle School we encourage children to take pride in themselves and their achievements.

We are committed to maintaining and developing our resources and school environment.

We appreciate that we are on a journey, supporting and encouraging each other as we grow and meet new challenges. In welcoming the future we are building on our past.

Together we strive to learn with strength and in gentleness.

## Vision

As a Catholic learning community of hope, inspired by the Gospel, we are empowered to embrace excellence through innovation.

## Values

At St James the Apostle Primary School, we value integrity, inquiry, excellence, hope, a sense of community and respect. Our values set out expectations for all members of the school community.

## Objectives

At St James the Apostle Primary School, we aim to provide learners with the opportunity to encounter God, wisdom and truth, in order to become people of hope for the future.

## Philosophy enactment

At St James the Apostle 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).