

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.*

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

Penola Catholic College is a Catholic secondary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Broadmeadows and Glenroy areas, and surrounding suburbs.

Mission

As a Josephite community, our mission, inspired by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, is to cater for the spiritual, educational and formative needs of young men and women who seek the Catholic values of the College.

Vision

Our vision, through our belief in Jesus Christ, is to build a faith and learning community, actively pursuing excellence.

Values

At Penola Catholic College, our values of Faith, Community and Excellence are founded upon a deep respect for the dignity of every person. Inspired by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, we nurture faith, foster belonging and pursue excellence so that each member of our community can flourish. Through a spirit of service, we are called to use our gifts to contribute to the common good and make a positive difference in the world.

The College's values are given particular expression through our 6 College annual themes, which become a focal point in each year of a student's enrolment. These themes are taken from the words of St Mary MacKillop and underpin our three core values – Faith, Community & Excellence.

Year	Value	Theme Quote
1	Excellence	<i>"Work on with constancy and courage" (1876)</i>
2	Community	<i>"Let us show this love in our acts, bearing with one another, forgiving and forgetting" (1890)</i>
3	Faith	<i>"Trust in God" (1874)</i>
4	Excellence	<i>"Do your best and God will bless your efforts" (1899)</i>
5	Community	<i>"Never see a Need without doing something about it" (1867)</i>
6	Faith	<i>"Believe in the whisperings of God to your own heart" (1868)</i>

Objectives

At Penola Catholic College our objectives are:

- That, guided by St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, to support every member to personally journey in FAITH, inspired to act for good in the world.
- As a Josephite COMMUNITY, to recognise and honour the dignity of all people, encouraging mutual respect through fostering partnerships and global awareness.
- To strive to achieve EXCELLENCE in heart and mind by maximising the God-given potential of every student: spiritually, physically, emotionally and academically

Philosophy enactment

At Penola Catholic 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).