

# St Bernadette's 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 Bernadette's is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

St Bernadette's is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Sunshine North.

## Mission

Our mission is inspired by the life, faith and charism of St Bernadette. Our mission is reflected in the question, 'How do we build the capacity of all learners to engage with data and evidence to strengthen student achievement and progress, to foster learning for all?'

## Vision

Our vision is *to create a faith filled contemporary learning environment. In communion we celebrate and embrace diversity. We honour our history and traditions to create a future which enhances and inspires.* Our core values underpin the vision of the school and by our motto – 'God Love Us – Let Us Love God',

## Values

At St Bernadette's, we value welcome, respect, faithfulness, empathy, honesty, inclusion, equity and collaboration. Our values set out expectations for all members of the school community.

## Objectives

At St Bernadette's, we aspire and aim for the following:

- Our words and actions reflect the lived Catholic faith, history and traditions.
- Every learner is known in all aspects of their learning, their interests and talents.
- Learners experience success and are supported with high expectations.
- All students demonstrate a growth mindset where they are empowered to take ownership and responsibility for their learning and their relationships.
- A learning community that values trust and feedback and celebrates collegiality, collaboration and learning, to grow and improve outcomes.
- Teachers, families and community members partnering to enhance student outcomes in learning and wellbeing.

## Philosophy enactment

At St Bernadette'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).