

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

St Leo the Great is a Catholic primary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Altona North area.

Mission

Our mission is inspired by the work of Pope St Leo the Great. Our school St Leo the Great is committed to providing educational opportunities that actively welcome, engage, inspire and challenge all students to learn in a safe and enlivening Catholic environment.

Our curriculum will be:

- Enlightened by the teachings and values of the Catholic Faith
- Based on Government, CECV and MACS policies
- Delivered in a safe, welcoming and cooperative learning environment
- Enriched by modern technology
- Underpinned by Pastoral Care

Vision

St Leo The Great school provides a welcoming, safe and enriching learning environment that promotes success for all. Our staff presents and gives witness to the teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church, so that our students may come to know, worship and love God, and to respect and love their neighbour. Our motto ***'Unity is Strength'*** inspires our children, parents and staff to cooperate in all we do.

Values

At St Leo the Great we celebrate and affirm the uniqueness of each individual; our school community is enriched by its diversity. At St Leo the Great we value respect, cooperation, integrity, inclusion, justice and a sense of community. Our values set out our expectations for all members of the school community.

Objectives

At St Leo the Great we aim to empower our children to take their place in a contemporary, global society as valued individuals who are inquisitive and motivated lifelong learners alive with the wisdom of the Gospel.

Philosophy enactment

At St Leo the Great 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).