



Inspiring learners to grow, learn and succeed in a dynamic Catholic community.

School Philosophy

As a Catholic primary school, Christ the Priest is unequivocal in its commitment to foster the dignity, self-esteem and integrity of children by providing them with a safe, supportive and enriching school environment, in which they are able to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

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.*

Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School is a school which operates with the consent of the Catholic Archbishop of Melbourne and is owned, operated and governed by MACS.

Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School is a Catholic primary co-ed school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the Caroline Springs area.

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School Philosophy Statement



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Mission

Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School exists to provide a Catholic education for Catholic families in the Parish of St Catherine of Siena, Caroline Springs. There is a focus on faith formation and development and personal learning programs for students. Case management of each student's pathway throughout their primary school years will be a guiding paradigm for the continued development of the environment, the layout of teaching spaces and meeting rooms, the curriculum and positions of leadership.

An important focus of curriculum development and implementation is the focus on Community and Citizenship, which is developed and explored in line with the Victorian Personal and Social Capability and the Civics and Citizen Domain and the vision for Catholic Education that children who attend Catholic schools are "energised to seek meaning and explore questions about the world around them.. in partnership with parents and the broader Church." (CEOM, Horizons of Hope-An Education Framework for the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Vision and Context).

Students will be provided with the opportunity to learn how to learn through a range of meta-cognitive strategies which will inform the curriculum at all levels of the child's schooling, with an aim for the student to become an increasingly independent learner. Integrated access to and use of Digital Technologies will underpin communication and will be used as a learning and teaching tool in order to allow for communication with, and learning through, the local, broader and global community contexts.

Education at Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School will endeavour to prepare students for a world in which work, society, community and personal relationships are of equal importance. It is recognized we exist in a world of constant change in which work, ideas and the economy is increasingly influenced by global events and the major impact of technological change.

The programs of Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School and the teaching of those programs support and promote:-

- the principles and practice of Australian democracy;
- the elected government;
- the rule of law;
- equal rights for all before the law;
- freedom of religion;
- freedom of speech and association; and,
- values of openness and tolerance.

This is communicated using a variety of media, through the policies, programs, documentation and practices of the school. This occurs formally at the enrolment interview on application for enrolment to Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School; through newsletter items, at regular school assemblies and weekly singing of the National Anthem.

In bringing this philosophy to life, there is an effort to use the available learning areas as flexibly as possible, thus encouraging shared use of spaces, movement of students within these areas, and so, enabling whole group, small group and individual learning experiences. Outdoor learning forms an integral part of the curriculum and therefore outdoor spaces are utilised as a flexible working space for students.

The use of Digital Technologies as learning and teaching tools is an important part of the skill development of the learner. This form of learning will include, but not be limited to, resources such as computers, iPads, electronic whiteboards and Google classrooms.

Children will be provided with time for outdoor play as part of their learning day, and will be provided with a curriculum which teaches them skills in all areas of the Victorian Curriculum.

There is a focus on the partnership with parents in the education of their children. Parent communication and education is a priority in ensuring that this occurs effectively and for the benefit of students.

Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School staff are committed as a Professional Learning Community, which engages in Professional Development as a whole staff, as well as having a personalised learning plan for themselves, in order to ensure they are providing student focused learning and teaching opportunities to address individual student needs in keeping **with the demands of contemporary learning**.

Vision

Our vision is to empower children to live with integrity through experiences of community and prayer and through a sensitivity to justice. Our core values underpin the vision of the school.

Values

At Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School we value mercy, service and thanksgiving. Supporting our values are our STAR expectations; Safety, Team Work, Achievement and Respect. Our values guide our expectations for all members of our school community.

Objectives

Christ the Priest Catholic Primary School aims to promote lifelong learning and active participation as citizens in Australian society. Within the investigations, students will participate in pedagogy based on an Inquiry Approach to Teaching and Learning, providing them with the opportunity to develop as lifelong learners who have the capacity to think and know how to learn.

Philosophy enactment

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At Christ the Priest Catholic 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).

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