

School Advisory Councils

Formation resources for mission



Melbourne Archdiocese
Catholic Schools

This is an overview of four PowerPoints which explore, through a formation lens, the concept of mission through an exploration of the MACS *Statement of Mission, Working Together in Mission, 'Take the Way of the Gospel'* and *The Identity of the Catholic School for a Culture of Dialogue*. It is hoped these resources can be used by Religious Education leaders or principals with School Advisory Councils or staff to breakdown the documents and to, in line with the hopes of Pope Francis ([ICS #97](#)) 'rekindle our dedication for and with young people, renewing our passion for a more open and inclusive education, including patient listening, constructive dialogue and better mutual understanding' ([Message for the Launch of the Global Compact on Education](#)).

	Statement of Mission	Working Together in Mission	Way of the Gospel	Instruction
Introductory Prayer	<p>Leader:</p> <p>Loving God, your Holy Spirit gave the disciples new eyes, new ears and a fresh heart to form the family of the Church and to proclaim the Kingdom of God.</p> <p>We ask the same for your family in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, as we begin a new conversation about our common mission for the years ahead.</p> <p>Through Jesus we pray.</p> <p>All:</p> <p>Come Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Amen.</p>	<p>All:</p> <p>God of love and mercy, you call us to be your people; you gift us with your abundant grace. Make us a holy people, radiating the fullness of your love. Form us into a community, a people who care, expressing your compassion. Remind us day after day of our baptismal call to serve, with joy and courage. Teach us how to grow in wisdom and grace and joy in your presence.</p> <p>Through Jesus in your Spirit, we make this prayer.</p> <p>Amen</p>	<p>All:</p> <p>Lord, we thank you for your presence as we start our archdiocesan 'Take the Way of the Gospel' journey together in prayer.</p> <p>May we open ourselves to you with a new depth of trust and conviction in your guiding hand, so that we may discern our journey with compassionate and humble hearts, and come to know your Holy Spirit moving within and amongst us, and so be transformed.</p> <p>Amen.</p>	<p>Leader:</p> <p>Modelled by parents, principals and teachers, in prayer and with wisdom, through witness and by example, Catholic schooling is at the service of the integral human formation of children and young people in Christ. So we pray:</p> <p>All:</p> <p>God, you have made the heavens and the earth. You have revealed your beauty in creation and inspired the gospel from which we proclaim your truth. Please help us now as we read, share and speak together. Take us deeper into understanding more about you and your love for us.</p> <p>Amen</p>



	Statement of Mission	Working Together in Mission	Way of the Gospel	Instruction
NCEC focus	Promotes personal vocation, connection with the Catholic tradition and responsiveness to mission.	Sets out to build communal Catholic religious identity and culture.	Has substantive theological content.	Is explicitly Christological, scripturally rich and ecclesially grounded.
At a glance (aim)	An exploration of the details in the <i>Statement of Mission</i> will give us a greater sense of the eucharistic character of a Catholic school	It affirms the importance of the roles of priest and principal (see page 7) which are the cornerstone of positive parish and school relationships: 'a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation' (Isa 28: 16).	It affirms that the way of the Gospel was, from the very beginning, a changing of arrangements to engage with changing circumstances.	The Catholic school's educational project is 'clearly inspired by the Gospel' (n. 28).
Explore: Topic	The eucharistic character of a Catholic school – affirming that its enterprise is one that builds community (<i>koinonia</i>) and provides opportunity for personal transformation (<i>metanoia</i>).	It is essential that they work collaboratively to ensure that the relationship between parish and school is central to providing the religious leadership necessary for the success of the mission.	The Gospel that inspired the founding of each and every school in the Archdiocese is seriously challenged by cultural shifts, social disinterest, pandemic-induced loss, and a painful history.	Education is a universal and inalienable right.
Explore: focus	'Eucharistic spirituality is not just participation in Mass ... It embraces the whole of life.' How is this 'whole of life' reflected in the <i>Statement of Mission</i> ?	How is this complementary collaboration outlined in <i>Working Together in Mission</i> ?	What are missions and how might they impact on parishes and their schools?	'... so that, wherever possible, Catholic schools be established and fostered with the utmost care' (n.66). How is the Church's value of education in general reflected in the Instruction?
Explore: routine	Connect Extend Challenge Lenses for Dialogue	word-phrase-sentence	word-phrase-sentence	Connect Extend Challenge Lenses for Dialogue
Explore: questions	Consider the 10 points of the <i>Statement of Mission</i> that outline what is a Catholic school in the light of its eucharistic character and its twin focus of building community (<i>koinonia</i>) and personal transformation (<i>metanoia</i>).	From the summary of roles of priest and principal (page 7) choose a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • word that captured your attention or struck you as powerful • phrase that moved, engaged, or provoked you 	Choose a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • word that captured your attention or struck you as powerful • phrase that moved, engaged, or provoked you. 	Consider the set of 'fundamental principles' in the Vatican Council's declaration Gravissimum Educationis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are the ideas and information connected to what you already knew?



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How are the ideas and information connected to what you already knew? What new ideas did you get that broadened your thinking or extended it in different directions? What challenges emerge for you? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sentence that was meaningful to you, that you felt captures the core idea of the text. Share and identify common themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sentence that was meaningful to you, that you felt captures the core idea of the text. Share and identify common themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What new ideas did you get that broadened your thinking or extended it in different directions? What challenges emerge for you? What's missing?
Reflect: topic	A <i>school for all</i> , especially the weakest	The Catholic school is a centre of life, and life is synthetic.	Mission – a family of faith communities.	Community – the Catholic qualification.
Reflect: focus	How is the mission lived out for all?	How is this interplay and relationship a reflection of our shared missionary discipleship?	How do these questions about parish impact on our understanding of school?	What does Catholic + education =?
Reflect: scripture	Galatians 6: 9–10: good for all	1 Corinthians 12: 4–11: one Spirit – many gifts.	Jeremiah 29: 11–14: I know the plans I have for you.	Romans 12: 1–8: so in Christ we, though many, form one body,
Reflect: share	'The mission is alive in our school community when ...'	'To the school community of ..., I bring the gift of ... It is a gift I offer freely and humbly.'	'My hope for re-imagined missions is that they can bring ... to our school community'.	'Catholic education brings the gift of ... to our school community.'
Respond: topic	Best kind of education possible = a formation of the whole person.	<i>Working Together in Mission</i> must cater to a range of contexts.	Co-responsibility in the Church.	Divergent interpretations of the term 'Catholic'.
Respond: focus	How do we best understand the bond between education and formation?	To promote evidential reasoning that invites participants to share their interpretations and become aware of alternative perspectives.	How can mission renewal in the parish find expression in the school?	Encountering different perspectives become a resource and a foundational principle for the development of methodologies suitable to solve possible critical issues and find shared solutions.
Respond: routine	See, Think, Wonder	What makes you say that	Looks like/Sounds like/Feels like chart	I Used to Think ... Now I Think ...



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Respond: questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you see in the <i>Statement of Mission</i>? Do these statements resonate with you? Where do you think this 'work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith' is reflected in the mission? What does it make you wonder about experiences that bring both knowledge and wisdom? 	<p>Considering the side-by-side lists on slides 10–12 in light of <i>Working Together in Mission</i>'s intent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why are the roles presented like that? What's going on? What do you see that makes you say that? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we share mission now? What does the Shared Mission of parish look like, sound like, feel like? How can a shared approach of co-responsibility in the Church and this invitation to shared discernment facilitate renewal of parish and invigorate mission within schools? How can the work being done in school invigorate the parish? 	<p>Considering paragraphs 68–72 on the divergent interpretations of the term 'Catholic':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do these views resonate with you? Where do you think our <i>place of encounter</i> is? What do you see that makes you say that? John XXIII statement on responses to divergence was 'in essentials, unity; in doubtful matters, liberty; in all things, charity'. What does this mean for our discussions around identity?
Closing Prayer	<p>All:</p> <p>We seek your wisdom, so we can walk in the path you lay before us, knowing right from wrong, protecting against temptation and deceit.</p> <p>Fill us with your knowledge, O Lord, so we may walk in the straight and narrow path, in faithfulness to follow you.</p> <p>In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.</p>	<p>Leader:</p> <p>Prayerfully, humbly, but boldly, we pick up what earlier pioneers have built and we shape it so that it will continue to serve the people of Melbourne with integrity.</p> <p>All:</p> <p>Lord, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Thank you that we can live in Your light and walk in Your truth. May the things that you have revealed and thoughts that we have shared dwell in our hearts and stir us to action. We ask all this in the precious name of Jesus.</p> <p>Amen.</p>	<p>All:</p> <p>Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire of your love.</p> <p>Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.</p> <p>Holy Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.</p> <p>Amen.</p>	<p>Leader:</p> <p>Prayerfully, humbly, but boldly, we walk together toward the vision of an 'open' Catholic school that goes forth in dialogue with everyone.</p> <p>All:</p> <p>Lord, we ask for the patience to accept this unruly freedom of the word, which accomplishes what it wills in ways that surpass our calculations and ways of thinking.</p> <p>We thank you that we can live in closeness to Jesus as part of this common journey.</p> <p>May we as the people of God and a community of missionary disciples, take the first step and rejoice.</p> <p>We ask all this in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.</p>

