



Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

MACS Statement of Mission

Our governing document



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge that MACS offices and Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne are situated on the lands of the five language groups that make up the Kulin Nation, who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge their continued deep spiritual connection and relationship to Country.

We pay respects to their Elders past, present and future, and commit to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.





School Advisory Councils

Formation for mission is a process that is:

- systematic,
- collaborative,
- graduated and
- ongoing.

Formation for School Advisory Councils supports their roles in:

- articulating and enacting the school's vision and mission.
- promoting the school's Catholic ethos and culture.
- promoting faith formation and development.



Key Principles

- This process holds itself within relationships built on accompaniment centred on the self, others, creation and God.
- Catholic educators need a “formation of the heart”: they need to be led to that encounter with God in Christ which awakens their love and opens their spirits to others, so that their educational commitment becomes a consequence deriving from their faith, a faith which becomes active through love (cf. Gal 5:6)
- [Educating Together in Catholic Schools](#)
#25



Formation for mission in Catholic education:

1. Is “formation of the heart” that is characterised by prayerfulness and reflection.
2. Is respectful, experiential and relevant, building on participants’ personal story and everyday reality.
3. Is explicitly Christological, scripturally rich and ecclesially grounded.
4. Has an affective focus on a person’s faith journey and discipleship.
5. Has substantive theological content.
6. Sets out to build communal Catholic religious identity and culture.
7. Is differentiated according to individual and community needs.
8. Promotes personal vocation, connection with the Catholic tradition and responsiveness to mission.
9. Develops the willingness, confidence and capacities of participants in their roles to serve the evangelising mission of Catholic school education.

[A Framework for Formation for Mission in Catholic Education](#): p14





Prayer

Leader:

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.

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.

Through Jesus we pray.

All:

Come Holy Spirit.



MACS Statement of Mission

A Catholic school is eucharistic in character

MACS governs and supports Catholic schools in the Archdiocese to continue the mission of Catholic education to proclaim the Good News and equip young people with the knowledge, skills and hope to live meaningful lives and enrich the world around them.



Process:

This is reflected in the Statement of Mission contained in the MACS Constitution which captures the purpose of MACS and places students at the centre of the mission. The intent is to underscore how MACS is shaped by this mission.

Each session allows us to work through 3 stages:

- **Explore,**
- **Reflect**
- **Respond**



At a glance:

It is vital to engage with the Statement of Mission for it explicitly declares the company's objects.

These objects, expressed as mission and purpose, are what the MACS board is charged by law to faithfully and effectively enact.

Thus the civil law establishment of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS) was designed, to protect the Catholicity of the company, safeguarding the heart of Catholic education's work.

The Statement of Mission, both practically and in a civil law sense, ensures the differentiation that sets us apart from 'the school down the road' continues to be a driver in providing an environment in which students are enabled to encounter God in Christ and deepen their relationship with him.

An exploration of the details in the Statement of Mission will give us a greater sense of the eucharistic character of a Catholic school and how that can prepare Catholic school students for living fruitfully in the world.



Explore:

to travel through (an unfamiliar area) in order to learn about it

A key to the Statement of Mission is that the Catholic school is eucharistic in character. In doing so we are affirming that its enterprise is one that builds community (koinonia) and provides opportunity for personal transformation (metanoia).

These concepts are not merely items of a social improvement agenda but are seen through the sense that transcendence is alive in the work of those in schools, written into everyday immanence.

Focus:

“Eucharistic spirituality is not just participation in Mass ... It embraces the whole of life.” How is this ‘whole of life’ reflected in the Statement of Mission?





Explore: Eucharistic nature of the Catholic school

- is actively embedded in the life of the faith communities of the local Church, which in turn is tangibly manifest in the life of each school
- is an essential place for the evangelising of children and young people
- prioritises the forming of missionary disciples of Jesus
- 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
- 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.

Consider the 10 points of the Statement of Mission that outline what is a Catholic school in the light of its eucharistic character and its twin focus of building community (*koinonia*) and personal transformation (*metanoia*).

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?



Explore: Eucharistic nature of the Catholic school

See

Look closely at the diagram. What do you notice? Make any observations

Choose and share a lens

Think about how you see the world. What lens you see the world through?

Our lenses could be related to your identities, positions or backgrounds. For example: gender, race, ethnicity, age, culture, place, occupation, family role, work role, and more.

With a partner or small group each choose one lens and take turns talking about the diagram through that lens.

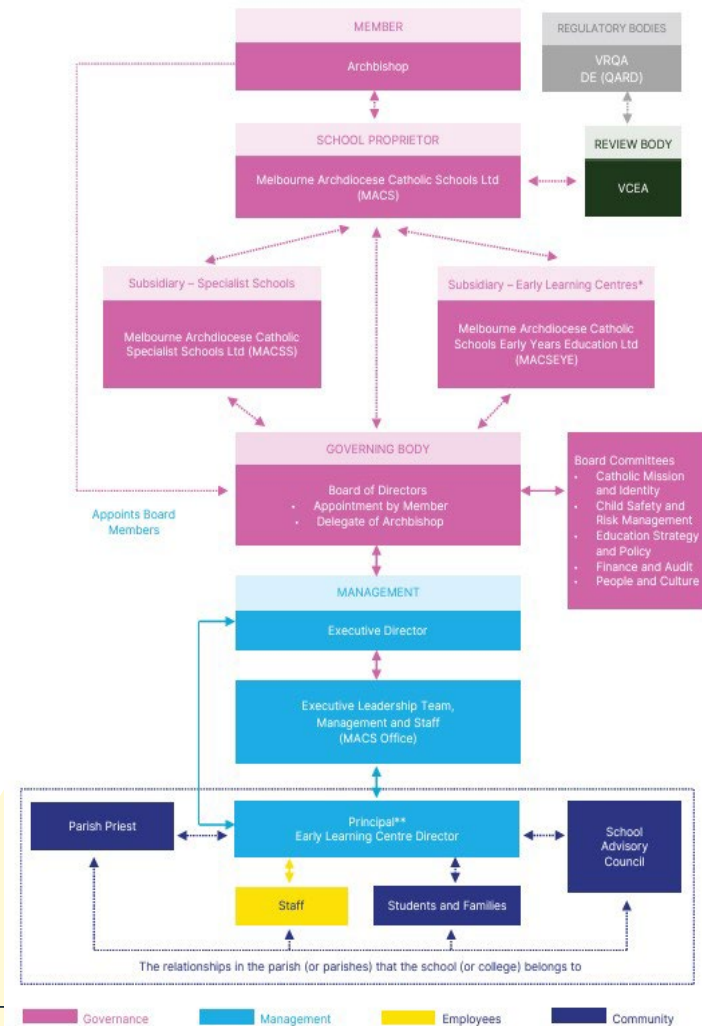
Probe

Ask a question of your partner to understand more about another person's lens and perspective. You can start with:

- Say more about what you mean by ...
- Tell me more about why you think/feel/see ...

Reflect

Take a minute or two to look again at the diagram do you have any new observations or questions? What issues or themes did you lenses conversation invite you to think about?



Reflect:

to bend back light from a surface

The good work of educating the young, undertaken in the light of the Gospel, is a co-responsible task led by every member of the Catholic school community.

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.

A distinctive feature of a Catholic school's connection to the Church is that it is a school for all, especially the weakest.

Focus:

How is the mission lived out for all?



Reflect – a *school for all*, especially the weakest

A reading from Galatians 6: 9–10:

Bear One Another's Burdens

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.



Reflect – a *school for all*, especially the weakest

Key quote

In this way those who meet him are drawn by the very power of the Gospel to lead a new life characterized by all that is beautiful, good, and true; a life of Christian witness nurtured and strengthened within the community of our Lord's disciples, the Church.

Reflect

Silently: How do we do the work in our school:

for the good of all

for those of the family of faith?

Share: 'The mission is alive in our school community when ...'



Respond:

to say something in return

Catholic schooling seeks to provide the young with the best kind of education possible, one that fosters a formation of the whole person that is deeply and enduringly humanising.

In the Catholic school's educational project, there is no separation between time for learning and time for formation, between acquiring notions and growing in wisdom.

By cultivating a maturing of faith and the intellectual life through the modelling of good relationships, Catholic school students are prepared for living fruitfully in the world.

Focus:

How do we best understand the bond between education and formation?



Respond – best kind of education possible = a formation of the whole person

Key concepts

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.

Respond

What do you **see** in the *Statement of Mission*?

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?





In conclusion

Each session of formation builds on the past and has a context ahead, so each aspect or session builds into the next. This reflective, developmental process enables participants to apply the experience to their everyday life and their ministry in Catholic education.





The context ahead

- How can the reflective, developmental process (explore, reflect and respond) impact on the experience of your everyday life and your ministry in Catholic education?
- What will you take away?
- What action can we take as a next step to bringing the mission to life?
- Commit to something today that builds on the experience you shared here today.





Closing prayer

All:

We seek your wisdom, so we can walk in the path you lay before us, knowing right from wrong, protecting against temptation and deceit.

Fill us with your knowledge, O Lord, so we may walk in the straight and narrow path, in faithfulness to follow you.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen





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