

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.*

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

Loyola College a Catholic secondary school which has been established to provide quality education in the Catholic doctrine for families in the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

As a Catholic co-educational College, Loyola College focuses on the importance of belonging to a community, strongly encouraging each student to discover their God-given talents. These gifts are to be developed, not for self-satisfaction or self-gain, but rather, with the help of God, for the good of the community.

Saint Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556), founder of the Society of Jesus (also known as the Jesuits) and College Patron, lived a life of Giving Glory to God through prayer and service to others. Loyola College's ethos is based on the Ignatian tradition.

Inspired by the spiritual and educational philosophy of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, known as the Ignatian tradition, Loyola College seeks excellence in the fourfold dynamic of Catholic, Care, Curriculum and Co-Curriculum, developing articulate, adaptable, discerning and confident graduates of conscience committed to living the values of Jesus Christ in a global community.

Distinctive characteristics of the Ignatian tradition include:

- commitment to a faith that does justice – awareness of needs of others and readiness to place one's talents at their service
- personal concern for the whole person (*cura personalis*)
- development of a broad, liberal education
- emphasis on critical thinking and effective communication
- striving for excellence
- pervading philosophy with emphasis on actions rather than words
- seeking out and doing what God is wanting a person to do in their lives

Mission and Vision

Loyola, as a Catholic co-educational College in the Ignatian tradition, seeks the education of the whole person and strives to ensure that each student achieves his or her unique potential.

We aspire to develop articulate, adaptable, discerning and confident young men and women of conscience committed to living the values of Jesus Christ in a global community.

As a community we recognise that this is best achieved in a welcoming and collaborative environment committed to Justice, Mercy and Faith.

Values

The Loyola College motto espouses the values of Justice, Mercy and Faith which is a call to action for our young people and offers guidelines for a life of Christian service, which is inspired by the life and teachings of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

Objectives

As a College in the Ignatian tradition, Loyola has a clear purpose:

- To provide opportunities for students to encounter the person To develop a well-rounded person of competence, conscience and compassion who will be of service in the world
- To instil in our students a joy in learning, encouraging the reaching for the Magis and a life-long openness to growth
- To nurture a sense of wonder and mystery in learning about God's creation and seeking God in all things
- To promote individual care and concern for each person
- of Christ as friend and guide, coming to know Him through Scripture, sacraments, personal and communal prayer, in play and work and in other persons, leading to the service of others in imitation of Christ.

Philosophy Enactment

As a Catholic co-educational College we focus on the importance of belonging to our community, strongly encouraging each student to discover his or her God-given talents. These gifts are to be developed, not for self-satisfaction or self-gain, but rather, with the help of God, for the good of the community.

In the Ignatian spirit we aim to educate the whole person. This is achieved through offering a broad curriculum which allows our students to pursue both academic and vocational pathways. At the same time, we encourage our students to explore their many gifts and talents through our varied Co- Curriculum Program activities.

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).