



Catholic School Culture

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Merbein (OLSH) participates in the evangelizing mission of the Church and is the privileged environment in which Christian education is carried out. All members of the OLSH school community are encouraged to develop their talents, in a culture of cooperation and solidarity. There is a commitment to promote the common good and work for justice and peace, both within the human and ecological family that constitutes all creation. Pursuit of the common good and active responses to the marginalised are foundational dimensions of Christian spirituality.

OLSH participate in rich prayer and liturgical experiences that name and celebrate our faith and tradition. A well-developed and rigorous Religious Education program nourishes and acknowledges the heritage and context of our school.

Community Engagement

We recognise that strong partnerships between our school, its parents, parish, diocese and wider community enhances student learning and helps cultivate a holistic learning environment. Parents and families are recognised as integral members of the school community. OLSH school does not exist in isolation but plays a major role in collaborating and engaging in dialogue with families, parish, other schools and the wider community to enhance the aspirations and outcomes for all students and families. Parent and community engagement is acknowledged and valued. This engagement affirms the value of education for students. Partnerships promote greater community contribution, ownership and trust of our school directions and decisions through open and authentic consultation.

Leadership and Stewardship

Leadership in a Catholic school, as ministry, is part of the mission of the Catholic Church. OLSH cooperates with the Governing Authority, Fr Michael McKinnon to ensure the leadership and stewardship policies and strategies are aligned to school improvement and support sound management and effective governance of the school. It facilitates a positive climate amongst staff and community and promotes a clear sense of purpose and direction. Resources are effectively utilised to improve student learning outcomes and teacher development. Procedures are implemented which meet the accountability requirements of the System and Federal and State Governments.

Learning and Teaching

This aspect sees OLSH as a community of learners. It ensures that students participate in high quality, planned contemporary learning, marked by the distinctive nature of Catholic faith and tradition. Teachers actively engage in professional learning that draws upon and builds understandings of a viable curriculum for all students, theoretical perspectives underpinning effective teaching and learning practices, and evaluative practices that ensure a constant cycle of reflection and action that leads to improvement in all aspects of learning and teaching.

Wellbeing

This aspect of schooling is based on a deep respect for the dignity and the uniqueness of the human person as we are all made in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:7). There is an intentional focus on the social, emotional and mental wellbeing of all members of the school community. It promotes a sense of meaning and purpose in life that is supported by the spiritual dimension of a Catholic school. The wellbeing of the school community is an integral factor in effective learning and teaching and it will be enhanced by the creation of a culture that reflects positive relationships and a strong connection within the school community.

Purpose Statement

We are a Catholic community that is welcoming, and inspired by Jesus to influence each individual to reach his or her full potential.

In partnership with our parish community, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Primary School will provide a Comprehensive Education by developing in all children the particular qualities which will enable them to contribute to the common good of all society, and is based on the gospel values of:

love
trust
dignity
respect
freedom
forgiveness
self-awareness
self-discipline

Graduate Statement

We want our students to grow in faith, bring faith to life, develop a love of learning and be positive, resilient contributors to society.

Statement of Philosophy Enactment

In all documents, in all practice by students and teachers, in work with the School Council and the community, in all teaching and learning programs, in all school initiatives, in all internal and external interactions, in all organisational structures and practices the Purpose and Graduate Statement of the school will sit at the centre and there will be expectations about all work aligning with the school Purpose and Graduate Statement. Regular evaluation processes will be in place to measure performance in all areas of the school with respect to the implementation of the Purpose, Graduate Statement and values of the school.

OLSH has published the Philosophy, Purpose and Graduate Statement in the school's handbook, strategic plan, on the school website and around the school on posters.

VRQA 1.4	Philosophy	<i>Developed and Ratified: 01/01/2017</i>	<i>Last Review/Revision: 13/03/2019</i>	<i>Next Review: 2022</i>
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