



Star of the Sea College

Mission and Identity Policy

Star of the Sea College is a Catholic Independent Girls' school, founded by the Presentation Sisters in 1883. Since 2014, Star of the Sea College has been a member of Kildare Ministries.

At Star of the Sea College we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of our students as a central and fundamental responsibility of our College. Our commitment is drawn from, and inherent in, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel: *CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety*:

The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching: that is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic School (*Congregation for Catholic Education 1997, n.9*).

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Mission and Identity Policy is to ensure that all Star of the Sea College parents, staff and students are aware of the heritage of Star of the Sea College and the mission and vision which guide the running of this College. The Mission and Identity policy aims to preserve the cultural heritage of the past and build on the developing narrative of what it means to be a Kildare Ministries school in the Presentation tradition.

PRINCIPLES

The following principles underpin our commitment to education at Star of the Sea College:

- Star of the Sea College is a Catholic Independent school founded by the Presentation Sisters of Victoria
- The College is overseen by an incorporated Board and is governed by Kildare Ministries, a Public Juridic Person (PJP) founded by the Brigidine Sisters and the Presentation Sisters.
- The College explicitly operates as a Catholic school, with Catholic Identity, as defined by baptism, forming a cornerstone of the enrolment policy
- The College marks significant events during the school year through liturgies including Mass and other rituals.
- Prayer forms an integral part of daily Mentor Group and a call to prayer formally occurs at the commencement of College events and meetings.
- Staff, students, parents, Board members, past staff, past parents and past students share in the narrative which surrounds the College and so education about this evolving story involves each segment of the community.
- The Deputy Principal Staff oversees the program of formation of staff, students and parents and co-opts various leaders in the College to organise and enact these programs.
- Responsibility for the organisation and administration of these areas will reside with key staff, such as the Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching, Deputy Principal Students, Faith Leader, Religious Education Leader, Living Justice Leader, and Head of Student Wellbeing.
- Once the program has been confirmed, and the initial organisation is established, delegation of responsibility for the program may then be passed onto other staff members in consultation with the Principal.



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SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF MISSION AND IDENTITY

Religious formation of Students

- All students participate in Religious Education classes, Reflection days, Retreats and the liturgical life of the school. Foundation Day on March 22, celebrates the founding of Star of the Sea in 1883, and is celebrated within the College on a date as close to practicable to this day.
- The life of Nano Nagle, the history of the Presentation sisters in Ireland and Australia and the foundation of Star of the Sea College is covered in a unit of Religious education, currently at Year 7.
- The active involvement of the Presentation Sisters and Kildare Ministries affiliates is encouraged in various units of the RE curriculum Years 7-12.

Outreach opportunities

- Opportunities exist for students to become involved in Kildare Ministries outreach
- programs: Saltbush Balnarring, Wellsprings for Women and Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project
- Local opportunities such as Little Mission, Friday Night Tutoring

Student exchange/conferences

These student programs provide various opportunities to build networks amongst the following groups: • Presentation Heritage schools, though the Nagle Education Alliance Australia (NEAA): Iona College, Perth and Kildare Catholic College, Wagga participate in an annual or biennial exchange visit.

- Local Presentation schools: Avila College, Mt Waverly; St Johns College, Dandenong
- Presentation Schools nationally: Iona College, Perth, St Rita's College, Brisbane, St Mary's College, Hobart or other schools within the NEAA umbrella
- Kildare Ministries schools, particularly those which are all girls' schools: Kilbreda College, Mentone; Brigidine College, St Ives (Sydney); Brigidine College, Indooroopilly (Brisbane); Killester College, Springvale, Kildare College, Holden Hill (Adelaide); Clonard College, Geelong
- Other Kildare Ministries schools: St Joseph's College, Echuca; Marian College, Sunshine;

Student Leadership

- Year 10 Leadership Conference organised by Nagle Education Alliance Association (NEAA)
- Year 10 Living Justice program organised by Kildare Ministries.
- School Captain leadership formation organised by Kildare Ministries
- In consultation with the Deputy Principal - Students, Head of Student Wellbeing and House Leaders, the Faith Leader helps select House Liturgy Captain and the Living Justice Leader helps select the House Living Justice Captains
- In conjunction with student leaders, Deputy Principal Students and Head of Student Wellbeing the Faith Leader develops the annual College theme



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Staff formation

Formal Induction of new staff into the values of the College, based upon the Star of the Sea Mission statement and Kildare Ministries Living Justice Living Peace Charter

Presentation Formation Program offered through Professional Learning Workshops for staff focused on Mission and Identity. The active presence of Presentation Sisters is invited within this program.

- External Professional Learning opportunities including the NEAA Conference and Kildare Ministries Conference/Retreat program.
- Pilgrimage opportunities provided through NEAA and Kildare Ministries
- Collaboration with local Presentation schools on staff formation
- Collaboration with local Kildare Ministries schools on staff formation

Board formation

- Induction into Kildare Ministries *Governance for Mission* statement
- New Board member formation at Kildare Ministries in first year of membership
- Opportunities to join the Trustees at the biennial Kildare Ministries retreat
- Ongoing opportunities to dialogue about the meaning and purpose of the Board in relation to its membership of Kildare Ministries

Responsible Officer	Principal
Approved by	Principal
Approved and commenced	September 2018
Revised	March 2023
Review by Relevant Legislation	November 2025
Related Policies and Procedures	Star of the Sea Mission Statement Kildare Ministries Living Justice Living Peace Charter Kildare Ministries document: Governance for Mission NEAA constitution
Version	5
Amendment to version	Change in Leadership structure: Head of Student Wellbeing