



# Star of the Sea College

## Mission and Identity Policy

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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 operated under the auspices 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 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.



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- The Head of Mission and Identity oversees the program of formation of staff, students and parents. Responsibility for the organisation and administration of these areas will reside with the Head of Mission and Identity in conjunction with other key staff, such as the Religious Education Leader, Student Leadership Coordinator and Deputy Principal Students. The organisation and responsibility for the running of these events will lie with the Head of Mission and identity, who will act as the point of liaison for all Mission and Identify work. 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.

### **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
- 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 presence of Presentation Sisters is encouraged in various units of the RE curriculum 7-12 and with the College Environment Group.

#### **Outreach opportunities**

- Opportunities exist for students to become involved in Kildare Ministries outreach programs: Balnarring Family Centre, Wellsprings for Women and Brigidine Asylum Seeker project
- Local opportunities such as Sacred Heart Mission, Friday Night Tutoring, Soup Van

#### **Student exchange/conferences**

- Building networks with Presentation heritage schools though the NEAA: Iona College, Perth and Kildare Catholic College Wagga and organizing the annual or biennial exchange visits.
- Building networks with local Presentation schools: Avila, St Johns College Dandenong, and Presentation College Windsor
- Building networks with Presentation Schools nationally: St Rita's College, Brisbane and St Mary's College, Hobart
- Building networks with Kildare Ministries schools: Kilbreda College, Mentone; Brigidine College, St Ives and Brigidine College, Indooroopilly

#### **Student Leadership**

- Year 10 Leadership Conference organised by Nagle Education Alliance Association (NEAA)
- School Captain leadership formation organised by Kildare Ministries
- In consultation with the Deputy Principal - Students and House Leaders, the Head of Mission and Identity helps select House Liturgy and House Social Justice Captains
- In conjunction with student leaders, Deputy Principal Students and Student Leadership Coordinator, the Head of Mission and Identity 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 Mission statement and Kildare Ministries Mission statement
- 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 and new staff induction

### **Board formation**

- Supply as requested, prayers for the Board related to the College theme for the year or reflecting Presentation and Kildare Ministries values



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Responsible Officer	Head of Mission and Identity
Approved By	Principal
Approved & Commenced	September 2018
Review By	November 2019
Relevant Legislation	
Related Policies & Procedures	Catholic Education Melbourne Policies Enrolment Policy 2.4
Version	2
Amendments to Version	Reformatting and minor edits

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