# 1.5 Philosophy Statement

St Patrick’s School is situated on a large parcel of land on the south - west outskirts of St Arnaud. St Arnaud is a town in the Wimmera region of Victoria, 244 km north west of Melbourne. It is in the Shire of Northern Grampians. The last census indicated a population of 2,193 (2016)

St Patrick's Primary School is a Catholic school offering a faith based education for primary aged children.​ We are constantly monitoring our literacy and numeracy practices and are excited by the growth that we are seeing in our children. Our school values wellbeing above all other facets of school life. We employ restorative practices in order to foster and maintain positive relationships among all members of the school. Our afternoon program, along with Fridays' rotations, ensures that all our students have the opportunity to develop their sporting, artistic and musical talents. We believe that it is important that our children have a strong connection with the wider community and make valuable contributions to it.

At St. Patrick’s, we see ourselves as an extension of the family by supporting the values and aspirations that you have for your child. St. Patrick's aims to be a safe, friendly, supportive and caring school community.

Ours is a Faith Community, which includes our Parish Priest, Father Gerry Prunty and parents, as well as the staff, students and volunteers that work with us. We are proud of our catholicity but we welcome all students regardless of their religious status. Our Christian Values support parents in raising children who are capable of making positive behavioural choices.

The staff at our school  prepare academic, sporting, artistic, social, musical and spiritual experiences for our kids. We aim to teach the core curriculum in a variety of ways in order to cater for different learning styles. Our classroom floor plan enables variable group learning. A typical day's experience at St.Pat's will include whole group learning, small focus groups, the use of technology, social opportunities, sporting or other physical challenges, creative tasks, and some reflective/spiritual time.
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The school has excellent facilities. We have added wonderful play and sheltered areas to our grounds, providing all weather access for both sport and recreational play.

**Our Vision**
As partners with parents in Catholic Education and open to God's presence, St Patrick's school pursues fullness of Life for all its students and the school community.

The school ensures the care, safety, wellbeing and protection of its students in keeping with the catholic tradition, which celebrates the sanctity and unique dignity of each person.

**Our Mission**

We journey towards this vision through:

* proclaiming and witnessing to the Good News of Jesus Christ.
* ensuring quality learning that promotes excellence and fosters the authentic human development of all
* living justly in the world, in relationship with each other and in harmony with God's creation
* exploring, deepening and expressing our Catholic identity in diverse ways
* enabling each one of us to reflect more fully the image of God
* ensuring that the dignity of each person is a priority through effective stewardship of the school environment and its procedures and practices.

**Enacting our Philosophy**

The vision and mission is interwoven with everything we do, with every person we touch and in all that we do inside school and out. The vision is our constant goal and our mission our mode of transport. Hopefully in all that we teach, our vision, is front and square. We will plant the seed, nurture and develop our children for the common good of all. Consequently our school vision and mission is embedded in the five aspects of Catholic Schooling:

1. Catholic School Culture
2. Learning & Teaching
3. Student Wellbeing
4. Leadership and Management
5. School Community

 **History**

St Patrick’s Primary School is a Catholic parish primary school situated in the North Central region in the north west of the state of Victoria, Australia. The Sisters of Mercy conducted the school for many years.

Today, the school has an enrolment of over ninety children and is in the care of dedicated lay teachers and supportive staff. St Patrick’s Primary School contains staff of dedicated lay teachers, the School Advisory Council, the Parents and Friends Club and a supportive parent body service at our school. All involved with the school are asked to promote and implement our Vision and Mission Statements of the school.

Our school community is diverse, drawing from both the country and rural sectors of the St Arnaud community. The socio-economic makeup of the school community is likewise diverse, representing a wide range of situations and circumstances. Our students have a diverse range of abilities. The school, in its work, attempts to provide an appropriate education in faith and life for all who are entrusted to its care.

The teaching and non-teaching staff are dedicated and professional to their role as members of the school community. Our school focuses on the whole development of each child. St Patrick’s is a place where all members of the school community are encouraged to live out the Gospel teachings and take an active role in the life of the Parish and Diocese. Therefore, school is an integral part of the parish community. There is a strong link with the parish through the sacramental program and Eucharist celebrations throughout the year.

**Publishing our Philosophy**

Our school website proudly publishes our Vision and Mission, how the school enacts these values as well as the history of the school.