

# Short Guide

## to Vision for Engagement



The MACS *Vision for Engagement* is an evidence-informed and authentically Catholic commitment to nurturing calm, respectful and inclusive classrooms in which every student can thrive academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

Put simply, it is our collective answer to a simple but important question: what kind of learning environments do our students need so they can flourish?

And for us, the answer is clear.

### Why?

Young people today are facing unprecedented challenges. Evidence now charts declining mental health and resilience, rising anxiety, increased social isolation. Students often arrive at the school gate distracted and preoccupied, holding devices that expose them to distressing disinformation and online predatory and bullying behaviour.

These complex challenges demand a purposeful and coherent response from parents and schools, to reclaim classrooms where calm is the norm; where respectful behaviour is not assumed, but taught; where routines are consistent, expectations are shared, and every student feels safe, seen, and supported; where excellence is not reserved for the privileged few, but is expected for all; where our Catholic commitment to excellence and equity for all is not an aspiration, but a lived reality; and where the dignity of every child is upheld, not just in words but in practice.

### What?

Student academic, behavioural, communication, engagement, health, and wellbeing needs are interconnected and complementary facets of student learning.

*Vision for Engagement* complements our *Vision for Instruction*. Both are grounded in world-class evidence and research from most successful teachers. Where our *Vision for Instruction* focuses on what we teach and how we teach it, *Vision for Engagement* focuses on the conditions essential for learning.

These Position Statements reflect our belief that every child and young person is made in the image of God and deserves to be treated with dignity and respect, and given the best opportunity to flourish in their life.

### Our engagement practices:

- teaching respectful behaviour
- fostering belonging
- focusing on attendance
- promoting mental health and wellbeing
- driving motivation
- targeting individual needs.

### For students, *Vision for Engagement* means:

- behaving respectfully towards others
- attending school every day, on time
- adopting classroom routines that ensure expectations are understood
- listening intently and paying attention
- participating in instruction that is targeted to need, and supports growth and achievement
- persisting with complex tasks
- feeling safe and connected at school
- being supported with mental health and wellbeing
- benefiting from stronger partnerships between the school and family
- experiencing caring relationships with teachers and school staff
- receiving a coordinated and effective system of support across all areas of their learning.

### For teachers, *Vision for Engagement* means:

- being supported with high-quality professional development and resources
- clear guidance and a focused and consistent whole-school approach to creating and sustaining learning-enabled environments
- reclaiming the classroom to truly focus on teaching.

By taking a whole-of-system approach, our *Vision for Engagement* creates a learning environment in all schools that is primed for students to grow and succeed, with the right support.