



A Charter for the Association of Josephite Affiliated Secondary Schools

Our Heritage

The founding figures of the Josephite heritage, Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Fr Julian Tenison Woods, encompassed a charism, a gift of the Holy Spirit, to inspire a spiritual tradition integrated into an approach to education. A defining aspect of the spiritual tradition is the conviction in the compassionate love of God expressed in a deep respect for each person's dignity.

It is in the context of the Josephite heritage that AJASS schools share with the Sisters of Saint Joseph the ministry of Josephite education.

We appreciate the Sisters understanding of the expression of the **Josephite charism** in education as:

- Expressing the unconditional compassionate love of God

- Enabling the integration of faith, life and culture

- Assuring accessibility and affordability for all students.

- Encouraging hard work, creativity and lateral thinking in solving problems

- Honouring the opportunities to walk with families.

We recognise the Sisters appreciation of the challenges faced in leading a Josephite approach to education today in:

- Keeping the needs of families at the heart of education in the context of a range of demands.

- Having policies and processes that are educative and create opportunities for participation and belonging.

- Keeping the community focused on a vision for respectful relationships and dialogue when times are difficult.

We appreciate the Sisters hopes for the future of Josephite education when:

- A Josephite approach to education focusses on the learning and wellbeing of each student.

Ecological awareness is nurtured in the stewardship and care of all created things.

Relationships in the school community are foundational.

Josephite schools are the best of Church in expressing the unconditional compassionate love God.

Our Mission

'Walking together with a Josephite heart' the Association's mission is to embrace, extend, strengthen and perpetuate the Josephite charism in schools which identify with this vision and spirit.

Our Charter

Our Charter Identifies that:

We engage with God's mission through our ministry in Josephite education in providing excellent, rigorous learning as a means of offering the **"fullness of life"** (John: 10-10).

The Josephite tradition is a touchstone to ensure expression of the **Gospel values** of humility, compassion, courage, authenticity, justice and an option for those in poor circumstances.

The Josephite Charism is a lodestone for AJASS in inspiring, guiding and directing our Josephite approach to Education.

The contextual challenges of the present will be weighed against the values inherent in the tradition with a Josephite confidence.

As an Association of Josephite Affiliated Secondary Schools we are committed to:

Revealing the Compassionate Love of God

Inviting all community members into an experience of **the compassionate love of God**, to extend that compassion to others and to delight in it when observing students, staff members, and families share in God's compassion.

Reverencing the holiness of the ordinary with a realistic and practical view of the joys and struggles of **life**.

Honouring the permeation of charity (love) through every relationship and interaction by nurturing and protecting the inherent **dignity** of each person.

Encouraging a spirit of kindness, forgiveness and **reconciliation** and an openness to developing **right relationships** within and beyond our school communities.

Forming and Nurturing Inclusive Learning Communities

Being open to all with a deep respect for the dignity of each person in the community and their story, we strive to create a sense of place and belonging for every family.

Acknowledging and celebrating difference and a commitment to differentiation where every person, is cared for and responded to according to their needs.

Challenging each person to grow to be the best student, teacher, and community member they can be as we walk together.

Having enrolment and fee policies that reflect an inclusive stance.

Serving and Being for Others

Expressing the best of Church in our compassionate response and **service** of others.

Nurturing hope and courage to **witness to faith**, through respectful dialogue with the many cultures and lives of those we encounter.

Reflecting on decisions and actions to ensure they are grounded in an authentic expression of the Josephite tradition.

Recognising the strength gained in sharing our faith, gifts, talents, and skills in the humble service of others.