MARY AIKENHEAD EDUCATION

At Mt St Michael’s College we endorse and promote education that is mission driven and values based in accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church and the educational philosophy of Mary Aikenhead Ministries. Formation and personal growth for all staff is integral to the mission of the College.

LIVING OUR MISSION

Students educated at Mt St Michael’s College will be nurtured in the tradition of the Sisters of Charity to be principled young women with a passion for life, a commitment to justice and the courage to live out the teachings of Jesus.

In keeping with the spirit of Mary Aikenhead, the Sisters of Charity and the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, the College is committed to the service of the poor. As part of that commitment, the community of Mt St Michael’s values:

- Hope
- Justice
- Compassion
- Love

Our College motto is “In Faith and Love”.

OUR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Our goal is to provide a learning environment embedded in our mission and values that enables every student to achieve their potential and be the best they can be. A high priority is given to building and maintaining positive and caring relationships between staff, students and parents.

To further the mission and values of the College, we endorse the Dimensions of Learning framework, with the Attitudes and Perceptions that support students to establish positive attitudes to learning and support staff to establish a learning culture that is safe, respectful, tolerant and inclusive.

Positive Education (Pos-Ed – Purpose, Optimism and Strategy) further enhances our nurturing and supportive learning culture.

A positive attitude and a heart of gratitude is our mantra.

THE LEARNER OUR BELIEFS

Our holistic understanding of the human person is the foundation for all learning aiming for personal excellence in spiritual, academic, social, cultural and sporting pursuits.

We believe that there is a pivotal relationship between student wellbeing and rich learning.

We believe that every student is capable of successful learning.

We believe that all learners are different and learn differently.

We believe that all learners should feel valued and empowered.

We believe that all learners should be challenged and encouraged to take risks with their learning.

THE LEARNER OUR GOAL

We aspire to develop 21st Century Learners who know and use the Habits of Mind, to become critical creative thinkers, able to solve problems and meaningfully contribute to society by generating and using knowledge in a digital global world.

We aspire that all learners develop high levels of skill and competency across the Australian Curriculum General Capabilities.

We aspire that all learners flourish as individuals in all facets of their learning journey.

Our Co-curricular program offers an extensive range of opportunities for students in sporting, cultural, academic, social justice and community service groups. Participation, teamwork, service and striving for excellence and contributing to the community are hallmarks of this program.

CURRICULUM DELIVERY OUR GOAL

The College has a coherent, sequenced plan for curriculum delivery that ensures consistent teaching and learning expectations. We have a clear reference for monitoring learning across the year levels and use data to inform our decisions. The plan has been developed with reference to the Australian Curriculum and the Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority syllabuses.

Curriculum choices and associated learning pathways including Vocational Education are clearly identified, communicated and offered to students and parents.

The School Wide Pedagogical Framework is informed by this document.

PEDAGOGICAL STATEMENT OUR PRACTICE

Delivery of the curriculum at Mt St Michael’s is grounded in understanding and applying excellent teaching and learning practices. Research based teaching using evidence to seek continuous improvement is implicit. Pedagogical practices incorporate multiple strategies to develop the Cognitive System as described in Marzano and Kendall's (2007) the New Taxonomy. The Dimensions of Learning Framework with reference to Acquiring and Integrating Knowledge, Extending and Refining Knowledge, Using Knowledge Meaningfully contribute to the development of higher order thinking skills and complex reasoning processes.

Explicit instruction is a key teaching method.

Currency in the use of technology to enhance pedagogical practices in the digital world is a high priority.
A professional team of highly able and expert teachers share responsibility for student learning and success. In keeping with the characteristics of a professional learning community, teachers are motivated by a shared vision for learning. We are committed to continuous professional improvement; to strive for excellence and work collaboratively to critique pedagogical practices through classroom-based learning, mentoring and coaching arrangements.

Teacher leadership is integral to the development of an expert teaching team.

Parents are the foremost educators of their children and families are integral members of the College community.

Partnerships are formed with the local community; local Church, business and educational bodies to provide rich opportunities and benefits for all.

Document informed by: