

IGNATIUS LEARNING CENTRE PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

Our vision

An education that fosters responsibility and transformation: Ignatius Learning Centre restores hope, offers a sense of belonging, and enables students to flourish and reach their potential. Guided by Ignatian heritage and Catholic ethos and values, we accompany young people who have had a severely disrupted education and are at significant risk of incarceration. We foster life-long learning by providing a holistic education, enabling students to heal, learn and experience success in a safe and supportive learning environment. We encourage students to acknowledge and develop their inner knowledge and skills through a process of reflecting on experience, discernment, and making life-giving choices for themselves, others and our world.

Our mission

The Ignatius Learning Centre provides educational opportunities within a restorative approach, to enable young people who have had highly disrupted education and are at significant risk of incarceration. Ignatius Learning Centre's mission is to stand in solidarity with young people and express a faith that promotes justice. We accompany students in their understanding of the value of and commitment to interconnectedness, mutuality and belonging. We will equip and nurture young people with knowledge and skills to become empathic and responsible lifelong learners.

Ignatius Learning Centre commits to working cohesively with Catholic Education Melbourne, the Department of Education and Training, Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, all relevant service providers and the families of young people, and the broader community. These collaborative partnerships facilitate the comprehensive support and care of young peoples' educational, social, emotional, psychological and spiritual growth.

Our values

The Ignatius Learning Centre is a Catholic school in the Jesuit tradition. We are guided by values of being welcoming, discerning and courageous.

The Ignatius Learning Centre commits to upholding the principles outlined in the Education and Training Reform Act, 2006 (Victoria) that states, 'all Victorians, irrespective of the education and training institution they attend, where they live or their social or economic status, should have access to a high-quality education that realizes their learning potential and maximises their education and training achievement (and) promotes enthusiasm for lifelong learning'.

We are also strongly guided by Catholic Social Teaching.

Our objectives

The Ignatius Learning Centre is aligned with the objectives laid out in the preamble of the 'Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration on Education Goals for Young Australians'

whereby the school aims to contribute to Australia's future where 'each citizen having the necessary knowledge, understanding, skills and values for a productive and rewarding life in an educated, just and open society'

Students at the Ignatius Learning Centre will develop the skills, attributes, knowledge and personal qualities that they require to act as resilient and independent learners, aware of their responsibilities to others and the common good. The attributes we nurture include:

- values of dignity, solidarity and belonging to a community
- high self-esteem and hope
- respect for spirituality and culture
- a capacity to be flexible and adapt to change, derived from knowing how to learn
- a belief in lifelong learning and the capacity for learning
- the capacity to solve problems, to think creatively and to reflect critically
- the capacity to work effectively as a member of a team and to demonstrate initiative
- an active concern for others, reflecting an understanding of their roles as responsible citizens.

In action

The Ignatius Learning Centre's holistic, transformative and restorative educational philosophy is expressed and practiced throughout the school community. Teaching staff take an individualised approach including each student's cultural background, learning, behaviour, well-being and spiritual needs, and accompany each student to courageously re-engage in their education and future pathway to further study or employment.

This approach requires all teachers and the principal to work and lead collaboratively in a multi-disciplinary manner; directed by leading trauma-informed, differentiated teaching principles and practices guided by Catholic Social Teaching, Ignatian Pedagogy and Jesuit Social Services' 'Our Way of Working'. Each student is encouraged to reflect on their past and present circumstances; strengthening each student's capacity to re-imagine their future. Through Jesuit Social Services' community and formation programs, each student will have the opportunity to become aware of how they can be an active agent of positive change within themselves, in their relationships and in society.

We offer an engaging curriculum that assists each student to obtain their Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (re-named Vocational Major and Victorian Pathways Certificate from 2023) whilst also supporting them to further develop essential personal and life skills that will set them up for success in their future education and/or employment pathway. The Certificate is a practical option for students in Years 11 and 12. It is designed to prepare students for further education, training or employment by providing them with work-related experience, literacy and numeracy skills and an opportunity to develop personal skills.

Democratic Principles

The Ignatius Learning Centre recognises that schools play a vital role in advancing democratic ideals and principles. For democracy to continue to thrive, children must be taught to value its way of life. The Ignatius Learning Centre will explicitly and implicitly support and promote the principles of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- elected government;

- the rule of law;
- equal rights for all before the law;
- freedom of religion
- freedom of speech and association; and
- the values of openness and tolerance.

Through our curricular and extra-curricular programs, we will prepare our children to become citizens who will preserve and shape democracy in the future. Democratic values will be taught explicitly in the curricula and implicitly in the child's experience of the school, from classroom practice, from what is taught to how it is taught.

The democratic ideals and principles are also reflected in the way in which we govern and manage our school.

Related Documents

Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Victoria).

2019 Alice Springs (Mparntwe) Education Declaration on Education Goals for Young Australians.

2016 Horizons of Hope. Vision and Context. Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools.

1993 Ignatian Pedagogy. A practical approach. Society of Jesus. Rome.

Other

The philosophy statement will be published on the Ignatius Learning Centre's dedicated page of the Jesuit Social Services website.