

CHANGE OF
GOVERNANCE for

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
2021

MACS

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools

As of 1st January, 2021 all Catholic Schools in Victoria will come under the governance of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS).

WHY the changes?

An outcome of the Royal Commission in July was that all non-government organisations that deliver services to children need to become incorporated legal entities that can be sued, and they need to be insured against child abuse claims. Non-compliance of this recommendation would put in jeopardy the annual government funding of Catholic schools.

Implications of **MACS**

This new model means that governance of all Catholic Primary and Secondary schools in Victoria will be centralised to a new company MACS, headed by Archbishop Comensoli, with the management body being Catholic Education Melbourne.

Role of the Parish Priest

This means that the duties previously held by the Parish Priest, such as employment of staff, including employment of Principals, signing off on financial matters and general consultation of the day to day operation of the school – will now be transferred to MACS.

Parish priests to retain crucial role as spiritual and pastoral leader in their parish community (including the school community)

- Custodian of Mission
- Apostolic Leader of the Parish and the School
- Parish priest is always a welcome presence within the school community where he leads and is responsible for the religious life of the school in collaboration with the principal
- Parish priest is also responsible for the patrimony of the Land and Buildings
- Parish priest to continue to provide pastoral support to, and effective Catholic leadership of, their parish (including the school community), while relieved of governance, administrative and employer obligations for School

From now until the end of the year we are in the process of signing legal documents to enable the transition to the new model.