

Recommendations

The School Governance Steering Committee has made the following recommendations for the development of the proposed governance model.

1. That a company limited by guarantee be created to govern and operate the schools that currently are owned by parishes, associations of parishes or the Archdiocese of Melbourne.
2. That the company be called Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS) and be established by the Archbishop of Melbourne.
3. That the Archbishop be the sole member of the company.
4. That a constitution be developed for the company that clearly articulates its purpose and mission and defines the relationship between the member and the board of directors, including the reserve powers of the member to ensure that the Board remains faithful to the purpose and mission.
5. That the board of directors be appointed by the member in a manner that recognises not only their commitment to the mission and values of Catholic education in the Archdiocese, but also the skills necessary for the proper discharge of the required fiduciary duties.
6. That the executive director of the company, under delegated authority from the board of directors, develop a strategic plan, an operating model and management team to operate and manage Catholic education in the Archdiocese in fulfilment of ecclesial, legal and statutory requirements, and Board policies and directives.
7. That a *Working Together in Mission* document be developed in partnership with stakeholders to articulate the features of the relationships between parishes and their schools that are essential for fidelity to mission. This document will be informed by canonical advice and will articulate the roles and rights of parish priests, principals and associated structures, such as an Advisory Council for each school to provide a forum for the realisation of transparency, accountability, consultation and participation associated with contemporary governance and management practices.
8. That a policies and procedures framework, based on the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity, be developed in consultation with key stakeholders. The framework should cover appropriate delegations, roles, structures and protocols, and be designed to ensure that Board requirements in respect of leadership, stewardship and management of the company and the education, care and welfare of its students are met.
9. That *School Transition Agreements* and *Right to Use Land and Buildings Agreements* between the parish and the company be developed in consultation with key stakeholders. Further, that arrangements for the use of shared facilities at each parish and school be formalised as part of the *Right to Use Land and Buildings Agreement* using the *Key Principles for the Use of Parish and School Facilities* developed by CEM and the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM) as the foundation.
10. That dialogue take place between MACS and key partners to assess and address the impact of the governance change on current relationships and services provided. The dialogue will include partners such as the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd, the Catholic education offices of other dioceses, the Catholic Religious Institute and Ministerial Public Juridic Person Victorian Schools Limited, Catholic Capital Grants (Victoria) Limited and the Catholic Education Long Service Leave Scheme.