



MELBOURNE
ARCHDIOCESE
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

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26 February 2021

Circular to principals and parish priests of MACS schools

School Advisory Council forums and discernment process

Main Points

School Advisory Council

- Forums to unpack the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) Statement of Mission and *Working Together in Mission* charter will take place during weeks two and three of Term 2.
- Due to potential restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, these one-hour forums will be held online (via Zoom). Meetings will be conducted regionally and for interest groups to highlight the importance of working together to support the mission of the school. Face-to-face sessions may be scheduled later.
- There will be three types of meetings, which are organised for:
 - all primary schools
 - all regional and diocesan colleges
 - primary schools with no previous experience of running a council/board.
- To [register](#) for one of these meetings, please visit the Governance website <https://governance.melbourne>.

Discernment process for principals, parish priests and canonical administrators

- Prior to the forums, principals, parish priests and canonical administrators should engage in a [discernment process](#) to focus on their crucial role in establishing SACs.
- The discernment process will take into account the Terms of Reference for SACs, which will replace constitutions of the previous school boards/councils in all MACS schools.
- These discussions should consider issues such as bringing to a close the current school board and the transition to an SAC, as well as the impact this will have.

Critical Dates

- All primary schools (principals and parish priests):
 - western region – **Wednesday 28 April** at 11.00 am for 11.30 am Zoom start
 - northern region – **Wednesday 28 April** at 1.30 pm for 2.00 pm Zoom start
 - eastern region – **Thursday 29 April** at 11.00 am for 11.30 am Zoom start
 - southern region – **Thursday 29 April** at 1.30 pm for 2.00 pm Zoom start
 - all regions – **Wednesday 28 April** at 5.00 pm for 5.30 pm Zoom start.
- All regional and diocesan colleges (principals and canonical administrators):
 - all regions – **Wednesday 5 May** at 11.00 am for 11.30 am Zoom start.
- Primary schools with no previous experience of running a council/board (principals and parish priests):
 - eastern and southern regions – **Tuesday 4 May** at 11.00 am for 11.30 am Zoom start
 - northern and western regions – **Thursday 6 May** at 1.30 pm for 2.00 pm Zoom start.

Actions Required

- Principals, parish priests and canonical administrators of MACS schools are expected to:
 - work together to engage with the [discernment process](#) prior to attending the forums
 - [register](#) for one of the sessions listed above by **Monday 19 April**.

Additional Information

- Further information and resources for these sessions will be available on the [Governance website](#).

Contact/Enquiries

- For all enquiries, please contact Mr Rob Aron, Consultant – Catholic Mission and Identity, at MACS on 9267 0320 or governance@macs.vic.edu.au.



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