



# Mission Statement



## REVIEW

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of a Mission Statement is to focus the entire school community on its primary *raison d'être*. In other words what does the school see as its essential purpose.

The Mission Statement must be short and pithy condensing into a sentence or two the very soul of the school.

It should be simple enough for all members of the school community to memorise in the first week or two of their presence in the school. It will relate to its relationship as a community and as individuals to God.

**Mgr. G. Stokes**

## **SUGGESTED PROGRAMME for REVIEW:**

9.00am **Morning Prayer**

9.15am **Session One:** Focussing our vision of this school

10.45am *Coffee*

11.00am **Session Two:** Drafting of Mission Statement

**Session Three:** Finalising New Mission Statement

**Session Four:** Taking New Mission Statement forward

Concluding Reflection: **For the gift of vision.**

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## **WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN REVIEW OF MISSION STATEMENT?**

- All Teaching and non teaching Staff
- All Governors
- Pupils (at a later stage)

The process of compiling a Mission Statement for a school is as important as the actual statement itself. Therefore, the greater the engagement of all members of the school community the stronger the ownership there will be of it.

A Mission Statement needs to be reviewed every three to five years and revisited frequently especially at the beginning of each school year.

## SESSION ONE

### Focusing our Vision

**Task 1**      **What are our dreams and aspirations for all children in this school?**

Take a minute to reflect on this individually and share in pairs. Then have a plenary session and write on large sheet(s) the responses.

**Share some dream statements for example:**

- A life without vision is like a night without stars, a room without a window, a journey without a destination. *Flor McCarthy SDB*
- Where there is no vision the people perish. *Proverbs 29:18*
- If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.  
*Isaac Newton*
- The most pathetic person in the world is someone who has sight but no vision.  
*Helen Keller*
- Vision is the art of seeing things invisible. *Jonathan Swift*
- The Catholic School is a place where the reality of Christ's Gospel comes to life.  
*Cardinal Basil Hume*

**Task 2**      **Identify the perceived strengths of this school.**

Again, take a minute to reflect on this individually and share in pairs. Then have a plenary session and write on large sheet(s) the responses.

**Task 3**      **Mission Statements**

**Why?**

The origin of Mission Statements dates back to the Vatican Council [1962-1965] when religious orders/congregations were urged to return to their founding vision, mission, and charism. Many organisations have taken up compiling mission statements. The Mission Statement is central to the life of the school in fulfilling its purpose as a Catholic School. It is a statement of belief that expresses clearly what the school believes about its meaning and purpose. It needs to be short, pithy and memorable and be capable of being translated into practice by all.

**What components should be included?**

There are **three** categories that need to be included: Catholicity, Curriculum, Relationships/Partnerships (e.g. Home, School and Parish).

## SESSION TWO

### Being Practical

**Task 4**      **Getting down to task**

In groups of four or five draft a Mission Statement and write on large sheet of paper.

Allow 20-30 minutes for this task

**Display draft Mission statements and have a break**

**Task 5 Drafting Mission Statement [Plenary session]** with use of computer and screen  
**Start with Catholicity. Agree opening statement adapted from displayed draft statements**  
**Proceed in a similar way with Curriculum and then Partnerships and you will arrive at a final agreed Mission Statement which can be worked on further if needed.**

**Task 6 Taking Mission Statement forward into all Aspects of School life:**

**DOCUMENTATION** How are the distinctive values and beliefs as expressed in the school's Mission Statement reflected in its documentation?

**SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT** In what way does the school's Mission Statement set a context in which the spiritual development of the whole school community can be fostered?  
[Worship, prayer and liturgy]

**RELATIONSHIPS** In what way does the school's distinctive values and beliefs, as expressed in its Mission Statement, allow for relationships to be built in accordance with Christ's command of love?  
[Including Teaching and Learning]

**MANAGEMENT** Evaluate how the school's distinctive values and beliefs, as expressed in its Mission Statement, reflect how the school is managed?

**CURRICULUM** How would you determine that the school's distinctive values and beliefs, as expressed in its Mission Statement pervade the whole curriculum?

**ENVIRONMENT** How would you determine, if you had not read the Mission Statement, what it contains as you reflect on the school environment?

**The school in THE COMMUNITY** How do the distinctive values and beliefs as expressed in the Mission Statement, facilitate an effective relationship between school and the wider community?

# I HAVE MY MISSION

God has created me  
to do him some definite service  
which he has not committed to another.

**I have my mission.**

I may never know it in this life,  
but I shall be told it in the next.  
I am a link in a chain,  
a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught.  
I shall do good;  
I shall do his work.

I shall be an angel of peace,  
a preacher of truth in my own place  
while not intending it –  
if I do but keep his commandments.

Therefore I will trust him.  
Whatever, wherever I am,  
I can never be thrown away.  
If I am in sickness,  
my sickness may serve him;  
in perplexity,  
my perplexity may serve him.

He does nothing in vain.  
He knows what he is about.  
He may take away my friends;  
he may throw me among strangers.  
He may make me feel desolate,  
make my spirits sink,  
hide my future from me:  
still he knows what he is about.

*(Cardinal John Henry Newman, 1801-1890)*



## THE POWER OF ONE

**ONE** song can speak a moment,

**ONE** flower can wake the dream.

**ONE** tree can start a forest,

**ONE** bird can herald spring.

**ONE** smile begins a friendship,

**ONE** handclasp lifts a soul.

**ONE** star can guide a ship at sea,

**ONE** word can frame the goal.

**ONE** vote can change a nation,

**ONE** sunbeam lights a room.

**ONE** candle wipes out darkness,

**ONE** laugh will conquer gloom.

**ONE** step must start each journey,

**ONE** word must start each prayer.

**ONE** hope will raise our spirits,

**ONE** touch can show you care.

**ONE** voice can speak with wisdom,

**ONE** heart can know what's true.

**ONE** life can make the difference,

**You see, it's up to you!**

## Reflection

For the gift of **vision**  
to **see** the things we sometimes miss  
because our earth-eyes are so limited...

Give us your **vision**.



For the gift of **servant-hood**  
to **empty** ourselves as you did  
to be willing to bend low  
to wash feet, to heal wounds...  
Give us your spirit of being **servant**.

For the gift of **hope**  
to **stand** on tiptoe with all of creation  
to wait believingly for rebirth,  
for growth, for completion...

Give us your **hope**.

PRAISE  
the  
LORD!

For the gift of **reverence**  
to be **gentle** with the mystery of  
each other's uniqueness.

Give us the gift of **reverence**.