

St Mary's College for the deaf is a Diocesan school providing more intensive educational programs and support to deaf and hard of hearing students in the Archdiocese of Melbourne in partnership with various Catholic Education Melbourne schools through specialist units based at each site. The model is founded on Catholic Social Teaching principles.

<p>The Dignity of the Human Person <i>We believe that every person is made in God's image. We believe that every person has inherent dignity and every life is sacred. The innate dignity of each person is the foundation and inspiration of our vision for a just and compassionate world.</i></p>	<p>Staff in St Mary's partner schools welcome and embrace students of St Mary's regardless of diversity, faith, social-economic status or school of enrolment as compassionate members of a Faith community.</p>	<p><i>"Being in the image of God the human individual possesses the dignity of a person, who is not just something, but someone."</i> <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i></p>
<p>The Common Good <i>We believe that humans are not only sacred but social and that we experience the fullness of life in our relationships with others. We believe every person is entitled to share in society's resources. Every person is also responsible for sharing our society's resources – the common good - with others. This extends beyond our personal interests, and beyond national borders, to our one global human family.</i></p>	<p>The common good is enacted through the Archdiocese's response to deaf children in Catholic schools who share in the learning and teaching, community resources and full school life of partner schools working together with St Mary's staff so that these disadvantaged students experience the fullness of life.</p>	<p><i>"Besides the good of the individual, there is a good that is linked to living in society: the common good. It is the good of 'all of us', made up of individuals, families and intermediate groups who together constitute society."</i> <i>Caritas in Veritate, Charity in Truth (#7)</i></p>
<p>Solidarity <i>Solidarity requires that we see another person as a neighbour, a fellow human who is equal in dignity. Solidarity means recognising the responsibilities we have to each other, and taking an active role in helping others attain their full potential.</i></p>	<p>Solidarity makes it impossible for us as Catholics look away from injustices and hardship which is why partnerships between St Mary's and local Catholic schools stand out from other system approaches to providing an education to these students. They are seen as 'our' students, students of a Catholic Faith community, cared for by all.</p>	<p><i>"Yes, every man is his 'brother's keeper', because God entrusts us to one another... This is a great gift of the Creator, placed as it is at the service of the person and of his fulfilment through the gift of self and openness to others..."</i> <i>Evangelium Vitae, The Gospel of Life (#19)</i></p>
<p>Preferential Option for the Poor <i>Children, women and men most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice are rich in the eyes of Jesus. We are called to be companions to women, men and children who are in vulnerable circumstances. Caring for the poor is everyone's responsibility. Preferential care should be shown to poor and vulnerable people, whose needs and rights are given special attention in God's eyes.</i></p>	<p>Students of St Mary's are some of the most vulnerable children in our schools. Partnerships between St Mary's and other Catholic schools embody the call for action to create communities where injustice and disadvantage are not just held to account, but rectified through an understanding that providing for these students is everyone's responsibility.</p>	<p><i>"In the poor and outcast we see Christ's face; by loving and helping the poor, we love and serve Christ."</i> <i>Pope Francis, Lenten message, 2014</i></p>