

Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak

Strategy 2025 & Beyond



LORETO
Mandeville Hall Toorak

Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the traditional custodians of the land on which our School stands.

We pay our respects to their Elders and honour their ongoing connection to culture, language, land and waters for over 60,000 years. We celebrate the rich and diverse cultures of First Nations peoples across Australia.

In a spirit of justice and verity we commit ourselves to the ongoing work of education for authentic reconciliation in Australia.



Introduction

In 2025 we celebrate 150 years of Loreto education in Australia. Our educational legacy, based on the charism and spirituality of Mary Ward, stretches back over 400 years.

The vision of Mother Mary Gonzaga Barry and the pioneer Loreto Sisters who arrived in Australia in 1875 is as relevant today as it was in our beginnings. Sharing their faith and commitment to the provision of an exceptional education, Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak is a school that educates, forms and challenges students for themselves and for others. Consequently, our students become strong, intelligent and generous young women who find their way in our world with a sense of freedom and justice, imbued with sincerity, verity and felicity.

While our past and present are important to us, so is the future. In this Strategic Plan we outline a framework that upholds our Loreto values and builds upon them in a way that is contemporary, forward-looking and relevant to the lives of the students who will become our graduates.

We are a school that is proud of forming students who will go out into the world to become the “women in time” of whom Mary Ward envisaged “will do much”. The graduates of Loreto Toorak need an education that fills them with hope and a sense of purpose. They should be willing to lead in our society with the agility and confidence modelled by Mary Ward over 400 years ago.

The formation of a Loreto student is unique; from the Loreto Schools of Australia Mission Statement, we are reminded:

“That being fully human involves gentleness as well as strength, compassion as well as action, receptivity as well as leadership, and the personal integrity which grows from the practice of reflection.”

These are powerful words, and as we develop such characteristics in our students through our *Strategy 2025 and Beyond*, it is our aim that Loreto Toorak continues to provide an education that is multi-faceted and holistic, that nurtures the spiritual, intellectual and social growth of each student that they might become people of faith, leadership and integrity for the world.

We are pleased to present this strategy to you.

Angela O'Dwyer
Principal

Louis Chiam
Chair of Board



*“I hope in God that it may be seen in time to come
that women will do much.”*

Mary Ward, 1615

The five core values of *Felicity*, *Freedom*, *Justice*, *Sincerity* and *Verity* underpin Mary Ward’s spirituality and define our approach to a Loreto education. Felicity, Freedom, Justice, Sincerity and Verity weave their way inter-connectedly through the life of our School and community.

Felicity is an attitude of mind and a disposition of the heart which manifests itself in a sense of joy and hope. Living with Felicity calls us to embrace optimism and positivity. Good humour, inclusivity and openness to friendship marks Felicity as a central characteristic of our School community.

Mary Ward’s understanding of ***Freedom*** was grounded in her sense of a personal relationship with God. She believed that each person has free and open access to God and can find God in the ordinary experiences of each day. Freedom, personal agency and an authentic voice are essential to human flourishing.

Mary Ward’s sense of ***Justice*** is grounded in a “right relationship” with God, with other people, and with the whole of creation. Work for justice entails the search for equality, the protection of human rights, and our valuing of human dignity. It is informed by Catholic Social Teaching and the gospels and is essential to a Loreto education.

Sincerity is concerned with our personal honesty and the way in which we hold ourselves in our communications and relationships. Mary Ward’s ideal was that we examine our interior life and know ourselves as God knows us. Sincerity calls us to live authentically, matching word and deed, to reflect our inner selves in our outer actions.

Verity, in Mary Ward’s words, embodies integrity, particularly the profound truth of who we are and what gives meaning to our lives. This is centred fundamentally on our faith in God. Verity invites us to share our light with others and to provide leadership on the journey of life, as seekers of truth.

Our Purpose

At Loreto Toorak, we offer a Catholic education that forms young women who are well educated, courageous, and able to thrive in a fast-changing world; young women who are authentic, connected and engaged in actively shaping a positive future for their community, be it local, national or global.



Our Strategy

We provide opportunities for students to grow and flourish in all dimensions of their education, grounded in our Catholic identity, purpose and values.

We seek to know and value each member of our community, students, staff and the wider Loreto network.

We engage with relationships, rigour, relevance and research to ensure best practice and outcomes.



Loreto Toorak is a Child Safe organisation with a demonstrated commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children.

Faith & Values





Remaining faithful to our foundations.

MISSION

We are committed to the charism and example of Mary Ward and the Loreto Sisters. Our Catholic identity and values pervade all that we are and all that we do. We embed these values into the formation of our students and staff. We strive to learn, to live and to lead by these ideals, inspired by the gospels to act as “seekers of truth and doers of justice”.

FOCUS 2025 AND BEYOND

- A rich and rigorous integration of faith, life and learning
- Developing strength of character in the Mary Ward tradition
- Ongoing development of staff in formation and Catholic accreditation
- Opportunities for engagement with our global Mary Ward network

Felicity Freedom Justice Sincerity Verity

Environment for Thriving





Creating a culture and environment in which individuals will flourish.

MISSION


Each person has high expectations of themselves and of others; they are enabled to be their best and are proud of their efforts. They encounter both challenge and success. They are not frightened of failure because they understand that, through being open to the world, they will learn and grow. The wellbeing of each person is at the core of our School community.

FOCUS 2025 AND BEYOND

- Broad, innovative and relevant curriculum and co-curricular opportunities
- Commitment to a framework that empowers students' and staff wellbeing based on evidence and research
- Development of a community that values diversity and can engage through respectful and ethical behaviours, meaningful communication, and informed decision-making
- Active engagement with the skills and knowledge required for ecological awareness and justice

Excellence in Teaching & Learning





To provide outstanding teaching and learning opportunities which will build individual capacity, enabling growth and achievement.

MISSION

We want each day to provide the fulfillment that comes from learning. We recognise that all of us need to belong and feel secure so that we might develop, make progress, and attain our goals. We understand the importance of acknowledging what can be accomplished through curiosity and endeavour, both individually and collectively.

FOCUS 2025 AND BEYOND

- Motivating and engaging students in opportunities for deep learning, emphasising the development of creative, critical, collaborative, and community-minded thinkers
- Rigorous data-informed pedagogies and innovation in assessment design
- Extending partnerships which build capacity for future learning
- Strategic and targeted development of staff, with a focus on maintaining professional networks to enhance purposeful connectedness

Felicity

Freedom

Justice

Sincerity

Verity

Community & Engagement





Building upon the strength and connectedness of our community.

MISSION

Drawing on the gifts, relationships and resources of our School community, we strive to both support each other and contribute meaningfully to the world. Through our network of Alumnae, families and school partners we promote a culture of generosity, gratitude and compassion. We will support our students to share their education to become agents of change, thinking and acting justly, both locally and globally.

FOCUS 2025 AND BEYOND

- Developing lifelong relationships with and amongst students, staff and families through a wide range of programs and events which enable engagement from different sections of the School community
- Further augmenting our strong, foundational relationships across the Australian and global Loreto and Mary Ward networks
- Developing and maintaining effective and collaborative partnerships with a range of academic, corporate and community social justice organisations
- Creating opportunity for philanthropy; enabling inclusivity and works of justice

Felicity Freedom Justice Sincerity Verity

Sustainability & Stewardship





Being true stewards of our future.

MISSION

We are custodians of our heritage and take responsibility for the generations that will follow us. We aim to be purposeful and prudent in our decision making and manage our resources in a considered manner. We are mindful that we are blessed with the capacity to be both gracious and generous in the provision of educational opportunity for our students in our beautiful environment. We are committed to careful and respectful stewarding of our resources, for our School and for the earth as our “common home”.

FOCUS 2025 AND BEYOND

- Planning for sound financial health
- Ensuring world-class, future-facing solutions and resourcing
- Partnering with experts who provide industry-leading advice about sustainability, master-planning and compliance
- Maintaining accessibility of a Loreto education to students from diverse backgrounds

Sincerity

PILLAR

Faith & Values



STRATEGIC INTENT

Remaining faithful
to our foundations

Freedom

**Environment
For Thriving**



Creating a culture in which
individuals flourish

Felicity

**Excellence In
Teaching & Learning**



To provide outstanding
teaching and learning
opportunities which will build
individual capacity, enabling
growth and achievement

Justice

**Community &
Engagement**



Building upon the strength
and connectedness
of our community


Verity


**Sustainability &
Stewardship**





Being true stewards
of our future


FOCUS 2025 AND BEYOND

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