

Core Values of Catholic Education for Catholic Schools in Macao

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

Educators shall "Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 2:5)

Establish an atmosphere of truth, goodness, beauty and holiness in education (Philippians 4:8–9)

The Catholic Church (including the Diocese of Macao and all local religious orders) has long played a leading role in the development of education in Macao. In response to the evolving educational landscape and the needs of our times, the Diocese and Catholic educational communities have spent significant time in discernment and collaboration to establish the *Core Values of Catholic Education in Macao Catholic Schools*. These values serve as a clear blueprint for Catholic schools in the region, guiding their mission and educational direction. Rooted in Catholic doctrine, they enable schools to remain responsive and relevant while nurturing the holistic development of students in all dimensions of life.

Foundational Belief: Jesus Christ as the Source

The *Core Values of Catholic Education* place Jesus Christ at the center as the unchanging source and foundation of all values. The ultimate goal of Catholic education is to draw individuals closer to Jesus, to be like Jesus; and to help them live the true life He taught and exemplified. Jesus declared, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), the mission of Catholic schools is to provide an environment where all stakeholders may encounter, come to know, and grow in relationship with Christ in their daily lives and learning journeys. When a school truly places Christ at the center and shapes its education and school life around the three core values (3V) explained below, it naturally fosters a school culture marked by **truth, goodness, beauty and holiness**.

Three-Layered Framework

The *Core Values of Catholic Education in Macao* are built upon a three-layered structure:

First Layer - The Unchanging Foundation: Jesus Christ Himself is the ultimate source and starting point of all educational values and directions.

Second Layer - 3V as the Core: Drawing from Christ's words, the framework defines three non-negotiable core directions:

The Way (Via): Focused on love and relationship, with others and with God

The Truth (Veritas): Pursuing knowledge, wisdom and discerning good and evil

The Life (Vita): Cherishing the dignity of life, family, society, and all creation

Third Layer - Twelve Actionable Behaviours: From these three pillars emerge twelve specific visible, repeatable good deeds - virtues that students are encouraged to live out throughout school life. These actions embody the **three theological virtues** (faith, hope, charity) and the **four cardinal virtues** (prudence, justice, courage, temperance). The list of twelve actions is intended as a flexible reference. Schools may adjust, append, or deepen them based on their own mottos, founding charisms, and student contexts. They may also choose to emphasise particular behaviours each school year. These behaviours may also evolve over time in response to social developments, but **the foundation in Jesus Christ and the 3V framework must remain unchanged**.

Three Theological Virtues: (F = Faith + H = Hope + Ch = Charity) /

Four Cardinal Virtues: (P = Prudence + J = Justice + Co = Courage + T = Temperance)

Walk upon the "Way" revealed by Jesus Christ that leads to the Kingdom of Heaven:

Love God and neighbours wholeheartedly (Ch/P+J); Face trials with courageous faith (F/Co);

Live freely with discipline and purpose (H/T)

Embrace the "Truth" embodied by Jesus Christ as our guiding example:

Pursue wisdom with faith and wonder (F/P+T); Discern truth and choose the good (F/P+J);

Stand firm in justice and faith (F/J+Co)

Cherish the "Life" bestowed by the redeeming grace of Jesus Christ as God's most precious gift:

Honour the gift of your body (F+Ch/P+Co+T); Defend the dignity of every life (All 7 Virtues);

Treasure marriage and family life (H+Ch/P+J+Co+T); Build a society with harmony (H+Ch/P+J+Co+T);

Care for nature (H+Ch/P+J+Co+T); Set noble goals in life (All 7 Virtues)