



SOPHIA  
MUNDI



# Sophia Mundi Steiner School

# Philosophy

# Statement



## Philosophy Compliance Statement

Sophia Mundi Steiner School is committed to providing a holistic, values-based education grounded in the principles of Steiner education and supported by the frameworks of Steiner Education Australia and the International Baccalaureate. This compliance statement articulates the philosophy that informs our curriculum, culture, and governance. It is reviewed regularly to support strategic reflection, community consultation, and ongoing improvement.

***“Our highest endeavour must be to develop free human beings, who are able to impart purpose and direction in their lives. The need for imagination, a sense of truth and a feeling of responsibility – these three forces are the very nerve of education.”***

~ Rudolf Steiner

***Sophia Mundi Steiner School acknowledges the traditional owners of the land where our school is situated - the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to the Elders past and present and recognise the ongoing significance of the oldest living culture in the world and its***



## Sophia Mundi Philosophy

Our philosophy is founded on the belief that education should cultivate the whole human being - thinking, feeling, and willing - through a balance of intellectual inquiry, artistic engagement, and practical experience. We are guided by the enduring principles of Steiner education, which honours the unique developmental stages of childhood and adolescence, and seeks to foster curiosity, compassion, and purposeful action in the world.

Sophia Mundi has adapted a core Steiner curriculum to its own cultural and environmental situation to meet the needs of its students and the current times, responding to current research, while remaining true to the values and intentions of Steiner education.

Pairing Steiner's innovative principles of holistic and meaningful learning with the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, we offer an independent curriculum that has been consciously designed with positive human development and wellbeing at its core.

Learning at Sophia Mundi is joyful, imaginative, and socially conscious. We strive to awaken each student's sense of self and belonging, encouraging personal growth and responsibility. Our school values connection - to self, others, community, and the natural world - as essential to learning and human development.



## Our School

Sophia Mundi is an educationally progressive inner-city Steiner and IB World School that offers a dynamic, creative and inspiring educational journey from Prep to Year 12. We aim to create a unique educational pathway for families seeking holistic, age-appropriate, academically rigorous and inquiry-based learning that nurtures the whole child: head, heart and hands.

Steiner's educational philosophy offers a path from early childhood to adulthood that extends beyond the normal educational goals of knowledge accumulation and academic excellence, to a holistic picture of the human being. Sophia Mundi has adapted a core Steiner curriculum to its own cultural and environmental situation, to meet the needs of its students and remain true to the values and philosophy of Rudolf Steiner.

Our curriculum is rich with discovery, imagination and deep engagement, where students learn, grow and develop a sense of purpose and direction, both as individuals and as part of a community. Our students leave school with a love for learning, lifelong friendships, and a strong sense of community and social responsibility.

With a focus on holistic, meaningful and human-centred learning, we foster curiosity, creative thinking and a passion for learning. Our pedagogy is based upon a three-fold focus of "thinking, feeling, willing" or "head, heart and hands" which equips students with a healthy balance of faculties for their lifelong learning journey.

Our school campus is on Wurundjeri Country, nestled in the beautiful grounds of the historical Abbotsford Convent, amongst the peaceful surroundings of the natural bushland overlooking Birrarung - the Yarra River - and the Collingwood Children's Farm. This beautiful environment inspires our staff and students each day.



## Our Vision

We aspire to be a leading centre of progressive, holistic education, grounded in Steiner philosophy and responsive to the needs of the 21st century. We strive to create a learning environment that truly equips young people to meet the complexities of the modern world with confidence, compassion, and creativity.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to educate and enable individuals to become socially responsible, compassionate contributors to the well-being of their communities and the world. Rooted in a deep commitment to Steiner education, we foster learning that is purposeful, joyful, and grounded in the development of the whole human being: head, heart, and hands.

## Our Values

- **Truth:** Striving for understanding through one's own experience and respectful engagement with others.
- **Courage:** Embracing challenge, change and individuality with confidence and integrity.
- **Moral Responsibility:** Acting with fairness, inclusion, and a sense of shared humanity.
- **Growth:** Committing to continuous learning and development, as individuals and as a school.

These values shape every aspect of school life, from curriculum and relationships to leadership and governance.

*“Imbue thyself with the power of imagination. Have courage for the truth. Sharpen thy feeling for responsibility of soul.”*  
~ Rudolf Steiner



## Student Wellbeing and Safety

We prioritise student safety and well-being as foundational to learning. Through strong relationships, rhythm and ritual, and a nurturing environment, we foster resilience and belonging. Our policies affirm dignity, inclusion, and child safety, with zero tolerance for discrimination or harm.

Our Child Safe policies are available on our website.

## Teaching and Learning

Teaching at Sophia Mundi follows the Australian Steiner Curriculum Framework through Year 10 and culminates in the IB Diploma Programme in Years 11 and 12. Our pedagogy is characterised by deep, creative engagement and integrated learning experiences. We focus on the development of the whole human being: thinking, feeling, and willing, through academic, artistic, and practical learning. Teachers are committed to ongoing professional development, ensuring their practice remains responsive and informed.

Our teachers are trained in Steiner or IB pedagogy and engage in ongoing professional learning to ensure excellence and relevance in their practice.

Our dedicated teachers build deep mentoring relationships with students, nurturing self-expression, resilience, and a love of learning.



## Alignment with Steiner Education Australia (SEA)

As a proud member of Steiner Education Australia, Sophia Mundi follows the Australian Steiner Curriculum Framework (ASCF), recognised by ACARA. We maintain fidelity to Steiner's educational principles, while adapting our curriculum and teaching practices to meet contemporary and local contexts, incorporating the findings of current research and understanding. This ensures our learning programs meet both national standards and the evolving needs of our students, while staying true to a holistic, student-centred vision of education.

## Alignment with the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP)

As an authorised IB World School, Sophia Mundi delivers the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) in Years 11 and 12. The IBDP provides a rigorous, globally recognised curriculum that aligns with international education standards while nurturing critical thinking, intercultural understanding, and ethical responsibility. Our delivery of the IBDP follows its inquiry-based, learner-centred framework, and integrates seamlessly with the school's holistic educational values and Steiner education, empowering students to engage deeply, think independently, and contribute meaningfully to the world.



## Community Engagement

Our school thrives through active community participation. We are a small school by design, fostering a deeply connected learning community. Parents, carers, alumni, and volunteers are essential to the vibrancy of school life. Through seasonal festivals, working bees, parent forums, and artistic showcases, our community shares in the educational journey and contributes to a culture of mutual support and celebration. Student voice is valued in decision-making, and respectful dialogue is encouraged across all levels of the school.

## Compliance and Accountability

We meet all VRQA Minimum Standards and Child Safe obligations, and adhere to strong governance, risk management, and accountability frameworks. The School Board and leadership team ensure that decision-making aligns with our philosophy and statutory requirements, maintaining high standards in safety, equity and governance.

## Implementation

Our philosophy is brought to life through teaching practice, leadership, strategic planning, and community partnerships. Staff and governance bodies embed our values into every aspect of school life, supporting an education that is developmentally respectful, socially conscious, and spiritually enriching.



## Attributes of a Sophia Mundi Learner

### *Sophia Mundi learners:*

- **Have a strong sense of self** and engage purposefully in their work and in the world.
- **Are community minded**, with a capacity for connection and cooperation, and a deep respect for others.
- **Are curious about the world**, love learning and are interested in a broad range of topics.
- **Act with integrity and honesty**, and have a strong sense of justice, fairness and ethical responsibility.
- **Are open-minded and balanced**, applying critical and creative thinking to understand and consider multiple perspectives.
- **Are caring, empathetic and compassionate**, accepting of difference, and committed to making a positive difference in the lives of others and the world.
- **Have a holistic mindset**, recognising the interconnectedness of knowledge, self, community, society, and the environment.
- **Are thoughtful and reflective**, with an ability to reflect on strengths and weaknesses to support growth and personal development



## Conclusion

Sophia Mundi offers an education for life - one that prepares young people not only for what they will do, but for who they will become. Our vision is to cultivate the wisdom, courage and ethical awareness that will enable our students to step into the world as capable, conscious human beings.

Guided by the principles of Steiner education and supported by contemporary best practice, we cultivate a learning environment where young people can flourish with purpose, freedom, and joy.

***“Accept the children with reverence;  
Educate them with love;  
Send them forth in freedom”***

~ Rudolf Steiner