

Al Zahra Academy Philosophy Statement



At Al Zahra Academy, we believe in providing high-quality education that aligns with the Victorian Curriculum standards, preparing students for success in a changing world. Our curriculum is designed to foster critical thinking and creativity, empowering students to excel academically, emotionally, and socially.

Al Zahra Academy cultivates an inclusive environment where students proudly embrace, celebrate and express their Islamic identity. By nurturing this strong sense of identity, we create a culturally rich learning environment for students to thrive in.

Aligning with our core values of **Identity**, **Faith**, and **Knowledge**, our philosophy at Al Zahra Academy promotes the integration of Islamic values into daily life. We instil principles of compassion, integrity, and service, empowering students to navigate the modern world while remaining true to their identity.

Education is a collaborative effort involving students, parents, and the community. We are committed to enhancing student experiences and continuously improving our school's teaching and learning methods. At Al Zahra Academy, we prioritise continuous reflection and evaluation to maintain our commitment to high-quality education. We continuously refine our programs to align with our values and meet student needs, supported by ongoing professional development and improvements.

Our mission is to foster future leaders grounded in Islamic values and devoted to continuous learning. We strive to inspire the next generation to create positive change, guided by the principles of Islam and a continual pursuit of knowledge.

Vision

Our vision is to create a safe learning environment where children gain the knowledge, skills, Islamic values, and character to reach their full potential as global citizens, preparing them for adulthood and beyond.

Mission

Our ethos is to “continually improve,” as the famous saying goes, “Never stop learning, because life never stops teaching”.

Our goal is to foster a strong sense of community and belonging while providing students with the Islamic faith and education necessary to become ambitious, productive, and inspiring members of Australian society. Through education and faith-based guidance, we equip our students with essential skills to thrive in modern society, contributing to positive economic and social progress, thereby making the world a better place.

Values

At Al Zahra Academy, **Identity**, **Faith**, and **Knowledge** serve as foundational pillars, driving our school's philosophy and fostering a vibrant learning community.

Identity

By cherishing and valuing Islamic identity within the school's ethos, we create a nurturing sense of belonging where students can flourish academically, spiritually, and socially, empowering them to confidently embrace their Islamic identity and contribute positively to the world around them.

Faith

Faith is pivotal at our school, providing students with moral guidance and resilience. Through religious studies and active engagement, they cultivate integrity and certainty, preparing to make a positive impact in life. Rooted in the teachings of Fatima Al Zahra and her family, faith forms the foundation of Al Zahra Academy's values, guiding students with confidence in their Islamic identity and equipping them to engage positively within the Australian community. Please refer to our Statement of Faith for further information.

Knowledge

Knowledge is a vital key at Al Zahra Academy, shaping our educational journey. With rigorous academic standards and innovative teaching methods, we foster critical thinking and a lifelong love for learning, equipping students to excel academically and make meaningful societal contributions.

Implementation

Al Zahra Academy enacts its philosophy through a multifaceted approach. To foster critical thinking and creativity, the school integrates project-based learning and collaborative activities into the curriculum. Regular professional development ensures teachers are equipped with innovative teaching methods that align with Victorian Curriculum standards. To promote Islamic values and identity, the school incorporates Islamic studies and cultural events, creating a nurturing environment for students to express their faith. Emphasis on continuous reflection and evaluation involves seeking feedback from students, parents, and the community, and implementing improvements based on this feedback. Al Zahra Academy also prioritises partnerships with local organisations to enhance student experiences and provide real-world learning opportunities, ensuring students are prepared to contribute positively to Australian society.

Democratic Principles

The VRQA Minimum Standards for School Registration includes a standard concerning the school's adherence to Australian democratic principles and practice. This standard is as follows:

The programs of, and teaching in, a school must support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- *elected Government;*
- *the rule of law;*
- *equal rights for all before the law;*
- *freedom of religion;*
- *freedom of speech and association;*
- *the values of openness and tolerance.*

Al Zahra Academy will deliver programs and teachings in a manner that supports and promotes the principles and practice of Australian democracy, as stated above.