

# Mary Ward Schools' Compass

The Mary Ward Schools' Compass is a guiding educational document for schools in the Mary Ward tradition around the globe. It was developed in 2017 at the Loreto Schools International Education Conference held in Pretoria, South Africa.

The conference was attended by members of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM), Congregatio Jesu (Congregation of Jesus or CJ) and other delegates from 21 countries, representing over 180 schools worldwide. A key outcome of the conference was the development of the Compass to point the way towards a set of shared educational priorities and outcomes for all schools in the Mary Ward tradition.

The Compass identifies eight markers that Mary Ward schools use to ensure they offer educational, co-curricular and student well-being programs relevant to a rapidly changing world. The markers empower students to become agents of change in a global society and stewards of the Mary Ward educational vision into the future.

These Compass points draw upon the Educational Guidelines from the Kolkota Education Conference in 2003, and 'the Calls' developed by the IBVM in 2014 at their General Chapter and the CJ at their General Congregation in 2011, reframed for our shared global educational context.

The Compass reminds us that;

*A Mary Ward school today affirms the centrality of the person of Jesus.  
His gospel and our particular charism  
offer to education a profound way of being,  
acting as a positive force for transformation of lives.  
Building on the foundation of our God-given charism,  
We seek to invest in the holistic growth of our school community  
in a deeper understanding and living of the gospel.*

The Compass will ensure that Mary Ward Schools remain 'rooted, responsive and relevant' as we create a oneness through our diversity, across the boundaries and borders of our world.

## Resources

Loreto Ministries | Mary Ward Schools' Compass  
IBVM | GC 2014 Calls  
IBVM | International Education Conference

### Keeping our Focus Fixed

A Mary Ward school today continues to take its bearings from Jesus, his gospel, and our charism, and to be guided by our JUST SOUL traditional values of Justice, Verity (Truth), Sincerity, Freedom, and Felicity (Joy).

(cf KG pp 1-2; IBVM Call 1)

(bearings, direction)

### Guiding and Guarding in the use of Media

A Mary Ward school today develops responsive and effective ways to enable the young to engage safely and ethically with social media and emerging technology. This ensures the integrity of relationships while enhancing the opportunity for learning and creating global digital citizens.

(cf KG pp 7-8; CJ Call 8)

### Being an Agent of Change

A Mary Ward school today discerns what change is happening or needed, and encourages collaborative work to embrace change in order to take God's purpose forward through education.

(cf KG pp 3, 7)

### Owning and Developing the Charism

A Mary Ward school today joyfully accepts responsibility for evolving and unfolding in our time the God-given charism that Mary Ward channelled in her time. We continue to interpret this charism, adapting what has been passed on to us, in creative and innovative ways congruent to the times.

(cf KG p 2; IBVM Call 1; CJ Call 8)

(transition)

### Cultivating Values Needed Now

A Mary Ward school today promotes not only the traditional values in which it is rooted but also those values needed for education that is responsive and relevant to the present reality and to the future.

(cf KG pp 1, 7)

(rising, coming)

(disadvantage)

### Embracing and Affirming Diversity

A Mary Ward school today embraces diversity as a mirroring of the wonder of Creation. Seeing the image of God in human diversity, we encourage the young to discover their interdependence so they each find their own dignity - "I am because you are" - and feel truly affirmed and included.

(cf KG pp 6-7; IBVM Call 5)

### Thinking and Acting Justly

A Mary Ward school today is aware of inequalities and oppression in the world of which it is part, and strives to be part of the solution, building peace by helping the young to think and act justly in response to injustice - whether in the school community, the broader community, or the environment.

(cf KG pp 3, 6, 7, 9; IBVM Call 2; CJ Call 5, 6)

### Engaging with the Bigger Picture

A Mary Ward school today, recognising the interconnectedness of all things, finds educational ways to engage with Laudato si' and Agenda 2030: Transforming our World. We promote the values, skills, and behaviours needed for living as global citizens finding fulfilment in harmony with all of creation.

(cf KG p 3; IBVM Call 2, 4, 5; CJ Call 4, 5, 6)

