



St. Joseph's Primary School Numurkah

Learning and Teaching Policy 2016

Policy Statements

**At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School we believe:
In building relationships based upon mutual respect, trust and
care in an environment of justice, equality, compassion and hope.**

Basic Beliefs:

**+ In never seeing a need without doing something about it" (Mary
MacKillop)**

Commitment to Child Safety

**All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have the right to feel safe
and be safe in all school environments and outside of school hours. The
wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we
have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and
child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy
life to the full without any concern for their safety.**

Connection to our Vision Statement:

At St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School our Vision states that we believe:

- In providing a curriculum which cultivates effective life long learners
through commitment to informed, current teaching and learning
practice**
- In actively ensuring that all children have the right to feel safe and be
safe in all school environments and outside of school hours.**

- The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety. Our commitment to Child Safety is supported by policies, procedure and practices.
- In educating the whole child in a learning environment where teamwork and collaboration are central so that each child becomes a valuable contributor to society

St. Joseph's Learning and Teaching Policy will inform our:

- Strategic Plan and Annual Action Plan
- Catholic Identity and Religious Education Policies and practices
- Pastoral Wellbeing Policy and practices
- Annual and long term budgets and
- Leadership focus

Learning and Teaching Statements

Spirituality

Spirituality is based on trusting relationships with ourselves, others and God. It allows us to connect, reflect, respond and contemplate in an environment of integrity and empathy.

Personalisation

Through open and trusting relationships a deep knowledge of the individual learner is created. This knowledge is used to plan for and support each individual learner's needs.

The diversity of each learner's interests, passions, learning, strength and challenges is acknowledged and embraced through contemporary learning and teaching practices.

All individuals value themselves and their contribution to the learning community, and are given opportunities to share their gifts as a learner.

Authentic Inquiry

Authentic inquiry helps learners make sense of the world around them as they wonder, plan, research, explore, analyse create and reflect.

This process is driven by passion and a curiosity to learn which is fostered through experiences that are relevant and meaningful to the learner.

Community

Positive relationships and teamwork involving our school, family, parish and wider communities form the foundations of Learning and Teaching at St. Joseph's.

We are committed to building just, collaborative relationships through sharing responsibility between parents, staff, and students.

We acknowledge and celebrate the diversity of our community, our interests, our strengths and challenges and believe that learning is a co operative, social activity fostered through a welcoming, supportive and open environment.

Life Long Learners

Lifelong learning creates responsible flexible individuals and problem solvers.

Lifelong learning requires individuals to be responsible, respectful, resilient and adaptable through effective problem solving, exploration and intrinsic motivation.

Therefore, in our learning community, our teachers will:

Spirituality

- Clearly articulate and model their faith and love for Jesus
- Share their gifts
- Care for self and others
- Use opportunities to respond to spiritual wonderings and foster their own relationship with God.

Personalisation

- use quality assessment practices
- foster deep and trusting relationships
- provide timely feedback to learners
- differentiate learning experiences to cater for each individual learner

Authentic Inquiry

- foster curiosity and empower and support learners to direct their own learning
- equip learners with skills and strategies for independent learning

Community

- Understand the world of the child, their family, their cultural background, skills and talents
- Celebrate strengths and focus on contributions learners can make to our learning community
- Create and nurture relationships
- Affirm gifts and talents within the classroom, school and wider communities
- Use a variety of experiential, investigative & collaborative activities

Life Long Learners

- Provide scaffolded opportunities for students to continue to build on prior knowledge
- Work as co learners and facilitators who share the learning
- Ensure learning is relevant
- Provide opportunities for flexibility in learning where knowledge and skills can be transferred in life

The students will:

Spirituality

- Develop a sense of wonder
- Be supported in their social wellbeing
- Be valued as unique
- Be supported in significant events in their faith journey

Personalisation

- Take risks confidently
- Know themselves as learners
- Engage in metacognitive and reflective practices
- Engage in goal setting

Authentic Inquiry

- Engage in challenging and meaningful learning experiences
- Make connections from learning to the real world
- Develop questioning and reasoning

Community

- Respect and value others
- Learn to work as a team with optimism, resilience and confidence

Life Long Learners

- Take responsible risks
- Be responsible for their learning
- Continually question and take open challenges to find solutions

Our Environment will:

Spirituality

- Be based on Gospel values and the Vision of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop
- Encourage and nurture faith development
- Be filled with heartfelt empathy and positive interactions
- Be socially just and secure
- Respect the dignity of each person

Personalisation

- Enable learners to make positive choices to support learning

Authentic Inquiry

- Be stimulating, safe and supportive
- Be one where learners feel valued
- Be one where learners are willing to take risks
- Have appropriate and adequate resources

Community

- Be safe and supportive
- One where all parties are confident in sharing their talents and ideas
- Enable learners to work in a variety of settings
- Be stimulating
- Allow for small and large group work

Life Long Learners

- Be engaging and stimulating
- Be relevant and provide opportunities for learners to build on prior learning
- Promote high levels of participation

To be reviewed in 2019

Ratified by the School Board 16/06/2016