



ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy Document



Teaching and Learning Policy 2020

COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

All students enrolled, and any child visiting, have a right to feel safe and be safe all of the time. The wellbeing of children in our care will always be our first priority and we have zero tolerance for child abuse.

At St Joseph's Primary School we strive to maintain 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. We are committed to continually reviewing our Child Safe policies and practices to ensure that every effort is made for ongoing improvement of our Child Safe environment. We at St Joseph's Primary School recognise that some groups of children are particularly vulnerable and we are committed to promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal/linguistically diverse children and also promoting the safety of children with a disability.

RATIONALE

This policy provides the common foundation for our learning and teaching at St Joseph's Primary School. It provides the belief framework (St Joseph's Learning and Teaching Framework) by which we deliver the formal mandated curriculum requirements and Source of Life, Religious Education Curriculum. It helps us interpret or seek out current educational thinking to provide for the learning needs of our school community.

BASIC BELIEFS:

At St Joseph's we believe:

- All students can learn.
- An inclusive school actively engages and works in partnership with families & the wider community.
- Learning and Teaching is evidence based.
- Educators learn best when they work collaboratively.
- There are essential proficiencies for student learning.
- Effective educators are critical to learning.
- Learning and teaching are inclusive of all student's different interests and learning styles.
- The traditions of the Catholic Church provide a foundation to develop the whole student.
- Engaged, self-motivated and independent learners take ownership and responsibility for their learning and can work with others in collaboration.
- As a community, we share responsibility for all students' learning.

**ST JOSEPH'S IDENTITY, VISION & GRADUATE OUTCOMES
STATEMENT LINKS:**

Our Identity

St Joseph's Primary School is a welcoming community inspired by the traditions of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop that challenges and supports each person to be their best.

Our Vision

At St Joseph's Primary School, we believe;

- "Never seeing a need without doing something about it" (St Mary MacKillop)
- In offering a relevant curriculum that engages all children and challenges them to reach their full potential
- In providing a culture rich in Catholic Tradition and faith
- where children will be inspired to live the Gospel Values of Jesus
- That our School Community nurtures the development of the whole child
- Our School is built on respect and an appreciation of individual differences

Graduate Outcomes

At St Joseph's we commit to educating students to be:

- Living examples of Christ in the knowledge that they are loved by God.
- Self-directed risk takers, who are able to set realistic goals and celebrate achievements.
- Proud, happy, confident people who have high self-esteem and resilience.
- Compassionate community members who have a genuine care and respect for themselves, others and the environment.
- Life-long creative, inquiring learners who are literate, numerate and competent users of technology

ST JOSEPH'S LEARNING AND TEACHING FRAMEWORK

Knowing The Learner

Knowing the learners' strengths and challenges allows us to identify the student's entry point for learning. We can build on prior knowledge, use appropriate strategies and access the appropriate curriculum for the student to be a successful learner. The environment ensures students feel safe, confident and valued in their learning community. Knowing family background/ history, student interests and passions, helps us to understand what is impacting their learning at school and at home.

Building Positive Relationships

Building positive relationships is a cornerstone for creating an effective learning environment. We understand that we are a diverse community of learners, as such we embrace opportunities to grow. Students are more likely to take risks with their learning if they feel supported and encouraged by their peers and their teachers. A culture of collaboration exists on many levels, within the classroom, the staff group and with families. Working in teams as a staff group ensures the we can best meet the needs of all learners.

ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL – Policy No:

Purposeful Teaching

Teaching needs to be relevant, current and future focused, informed by evidence based best practice models. Teaching is well planned and documented with clear learning intentions, guided by the Victorian Curriculum. Purposeful teaching uses differentiated teaching strategies, data, observations and assessments. Purposeful teaching requires us to know what students know, need/want to know and what they will require to move to advance skills and show growth. Feedback is an integral component in allowing students and teachers to identify future learning goals.

Purposeful Learning

When learning is purposeful, students are at the centre, their voice is heard and their input is valued. Purposeful learning provides opportunities for engagement and active exploration through the use of digital technologies, design thinking. Students need the opportunity to make connections and transfer their learning in many different situations. Purposeful learning occurs when students have the forum to share strategies and thinking when solving problems. Opportunities to work in teams, listen to other perspectives and be flexible are essential lifelong skills.

