

Policy for Sustaining a Strong School Community



The Diocesan Schools System of Broken Bay (DSS) exists to educate and form young people in Catholic discipleship, offering them experiences of following Jesus as members of the Catholic Community.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Narrabeen is part of the DSS and our mission is:

*Inspired by our motto, "Build in Love",
We at St Joseph's School, Narrabeen,
A Catholic community of learning,
Are committed to providing our children
With a challenging education in a
Safe, nurturing and inclusive environment.*

This policy is intended to develop and support positive relationships within the St Joseph's school community and underpin our school's pastoral care practice. It applies to all members of the school community: parents, guardians, students, families, employees, parish priests, parish community members, volunteers and contractors. It has the support of the School Board and the Parents and Friends Association.

POLICY STATEMENT

As a Catholic community, our starting point is the understanding that each of us is made in God's image and our deep respect for the innate dignity and uniqueness of each and every person. We embed Good Samaritan values of community, respect, compassion and stewardship as the foundations on which we develop faith and learning in our children and their families. The ways in which people interact with each other in the daily life of the school significantly affect each person's sense of well-being, identity and self-worth and contribute to the culture of the community.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is a centre of faith and learning where students are enabled to:

- personally integrate their faith and life
- actively participate in the parish and within the wider community
- develop their intellectual, physical, social, emotional, moral, aesthetic potential.

Parents are the primary educators of their children. We are committed to work together in partnership with parents, families, parishes and the wider Church to:

- nurture individual gifts of students to their highest potential so that they can contribute effectively to Church, society and culture
- live our Catholic mission and identity, school charism and tradition
- support a whole school community approach to student learning and wellbeing.

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We do this when we:

- support the principal and staff in the development of a Christ-centred learning community
- act in the best interests of students and their learning
- develop and maintain positive, supportive and respectful community relationships
- are open to learning conversations while building relational trust.

COLLABORATION TIPS FOR ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- be prepared to listen and seek to verify facts
- cultivate engaging, respectful conversations and mutual trust
- be aware that people have different perceptions of events
- collaborate to resolve areas of concern
- maintain the integrity of confidential, private and sensitive information
- follow school procedures
- be aware when communications become counterproductive and seek assistance if needed
- resolve issues and address any concerns in accordance with DSS and school policies.

TIPS FOR PARENTS WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SCHOOL

- disclose fully and accurately any information required by the school in its enrolment process and update this information as required
- engage with students in their learning
- ensure children are punctual and consistently attend school
- engage constructively with teaching and learning and the delivery of curriculum by the school
- contribute constructively to behaviour, academic and other personalised support plans in place at the school
- collaborate with staff directions in all educational and school activities including camps and excursions and respect and comply with reasonable requests or directions of the principal when on school premises or participating in school excursions
- be mindful of school grounds as places of learning and safety (do not approach other children to chastise or discipline them in any way)
- enter a classroom only after an invitation from a teacher or principal.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed not less frequently than once every three years.

POLICY DATES

Date of completion of formulation and adoption November 2015

Date of next review November 2018

Michael Gallagher (Principal)