

# ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL JUNEE PASTORAL CARE POLICY



**Written:** February 2018

**Date to be reviewed:** February 2019

Our school, St Joseph's, is Christ centred, guided by its motto "Christ Our Way". All school community members endeavour to facilitate each child's journey by being dynamic in direction and strong in service.

In being Christ Centred we will:

- Build the Kingdom of God through our personal relationship with Jesus by providing an atmosphere that encompasses prayer and reverence amongst staff and students.
- Ensure that the children have an understanding of the Gospel values to develop a faith based relationship with Jesus.
- Develop knowledge, beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith through prayer, liturgy and the teaching of our Religious Education and Sacramental Programs.

In being Dynamic in Direction, we will:

- Provide a holistic education that develops an ongoing love of learning by incorporating innovative and enriching teaching and learning activities into our teaching practice to meet the changing needs of our world.
- Encourage students and teachers to strive for excellence by fostering and supporting them to make the best possible use of their individual gifts and talents.
- Affirm the dignity of the individual and cater for each student's and family's needs by honouring differences in abilities, cultures and interests while respecting each person's journey.

In being Strong in Service, we will:

- Give each student an education that is professional, current, relevant and integrated, by staff who are committed to lifelong learning.
- Provide leadership that models service to others by being active members of the parish, school and local communities.
- Offer each student the opportunity to develop leadership qualities that will serve them and their community, now and in the future.
- Ensure that discipline is just and fair so that it nurtures strong values and morals that promote self-responsibility and good citizenship.

**Rationale:**

The members of our school community have a right to be supported with care and compassion in their endeavours, crises and celebrations. Pastoral care at St. Joseph's School is a total expression of our school service to all members of the school community.

**Aims:**

To build a community where every person is accepted, respected and feels safe and secure. Through words and actions, the members of the St. Joseph's School community will know they are valued and have a significant contribution to make to our school. At St. Joseph's School all members endeavour to make pastoral care a total expression of Gospel values in our daily lives.

**Implementation:**

The implementation of this policy will permeate all aspects of school life. A community of care will be established where individuals know they will be supported in their endeavours, crises and celebrations.

- All members of our school community will feel valued and recognized for their self-worth.
- The students of our school will know of the structures in place to keep them safe while at school.
- Efforts and achievements of the school community will be recognised at fortnightly assemblies and through the newsletter.
- Our school community will promote an environment where all members are confident and supported to take risks, socially, professionally and educationally.
- All members of our school community will realise their responsibility in the building of a safe, loving and just community.
- Centacare support programs are available to all students and families through a school councillor.
- Members of staff will utilise restorative practices training as part of our pastoral care.
- Peer support programs run through out the school. These can take the form of special days/theme days where the students work in peer and buddy groups.
- The staff and students are supported by the CSO in regards to regular communication with CSO personnel to identify student needs and offer the support with Intervention programs.
- A wellbeing committee headed by the Diverse learning and needs coordinator will be in place and wellbeing will be a staff meeting agenda item
- A breakfast club is in place to support students who have difficulty in accessing their classroom of a morning. This runs on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Students are invited to discuss any worries, or concerns at these meetings and set themselves up for a successful day.
- All students have access to school camps and excursions and attention is given to needs of families and students.
- The school community provides support for pastoral care across all KLA's.
- Year six students are encouraged to participate in High School orientation days in order to make the transition easier.