

St Patrick's Primary School Gympie



POLICY DOCUMENT

Relationships and Community

VISION STATEMENT

St. Patrick's Primary School partners with parents and the community to develop Christian character and individual excellence.

MISSION STATEMENT

We believe that:

We are a Christian Community, in the Catholic tradition, living out the values of the Gospels, with Jesus as our model.

Parents are the primary educators of their children. We value and promote cooperative partnerships between parents, school and the wider community.

It is important to provide opportunities which challenge and inspire. All members of the school community are encouraged to achieve individual excellence.

STRATEGIC GOALS

St Patrick's School will promote and develop an authentic Catholic community working towards Christ's mission in our world.

St. Patrick's School will promote and enhance quality teaching and learning.

St. Patrick's School will provide a quality, attractive and functional teaching and learning environment and be committed to processes of reflection, review and ongoing renewal.

St. Patrick's School will promote and enhance positive relationships within and beyond the school community.

RATIONALE

St Patrick's Primary is a safe, caring and compassionate community reaching out to others, especially the most needy. Our personal and professional relationships are the building blocks for the school community and form the basis of us as a Christian community in the Catholic tradition.

VALUES

The following scripture passages are chosen as a basis for reflection, discussion and action on the place and importance of relationships and the building of a Christian, Catholic Community at St. Patrick's School.

"God made man and woman in the image of himself, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of others, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

"Love is patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes." (1 Corinthians 13:4-6)

"There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.....All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as he chooses." (1 Corinthians 12:4-11)

"I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep." (John 10:10-11)

"The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour." (Isaiah 61:1-2 and Luke 4:18-19)

"How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle; they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn; they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right; they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful; they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart; they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3-10)

"Finally: you should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic; love the brothers and sisters, have compassion and be self-effacing. Never pay back one wrong with another, or an angry word with another one; instead, pay back with a blessing. That is what you are called to do, so that you inherit a blessing yourself." (1 Peter 3:8-9)

POLICY STATEMENT

We strive to be just, compassionate and considerate in our relationships, taking Jesus as our model. Our School and our World will then be marked by social equality, social justice and compassion. We are challenged to consider, in special ways, the most needy and neglected.

We affirm our commitment to building a loving, faith-sharing and hopeful Christian Community; we foster active participation in the Christian/Catholic Community dimension of the School; we celebrate significant events together and we articulate the meanings of larger significant times and events in a Catholic context.

We embrace the belief that the divine and the human are integrated within each person. Through the gifts and the power of the Holy Spirit, we encourage the development and building of life-giving and empowering relationships with all members of our families, school, parish and wider community. We actively assist in the ongoing development and growth of each person, created in God's image and towards ownership of a clear and unique sense of our own worth and dignity.

We respect and value the differences in all individuals and all cultures and our relationships reflect this. We value and acknowledge the roles which indigenous people have played in our land, history and society.

Our relationship to the natural environment is an integral part of our relationship with God. We care for our natural environment and believe that we have a responsibility to nurture and preserve our natural world. We act from this belief.

POLICY CONSEQUENCES

Procedures and Guidelines

- Parent/staff/student/Leadership/Board induction programs,
- Buddying/mentoring and Pastoral Care,
- Values Education Plan,
- Leadership development,
- Behaviour management programs,
- Relationship building, safe behaviour and anti-bullying,
- Counselling and guidance,
- Culture and Ethos,
- Marketing the school,
- Parents and Friends,
- Parish, School-Community relations,
- Affirmation rituals/ceremonies,
- Inter-School Sport,
- Enrolment procedures,
- Grievance procedures,
- Traumatic incident protocol and procedures,
- Parent volunteers and confidentiality,
- Working with the Media,
- Placement of children in classes,
- Resolution of issues of concern.