



Catholic School Culture

St Joseph's school participates in the evangelizing mission of the Church and is the privileged environment in which Christian education is carried out. All members of the St Joseph's school community are encouraged to develop their talents, in a culture of cooperation and solidarity. There is a commitment to promote the common good and work for justice and peace, both within the human and ecological family that constitutes all creation. Pursuit of the common good and active responses to the marginalised are foundational dimensions of Christian spirituality.

St Joseph's school participate in rich prayer and liturgical experiences that name and celebrate our faith and tradition. A well-developed and rigorous Religious Education program nourishes and acknowledges the heritage and context of our school.

Community Engagement

We recognise that strong partnerships between our school, its parents, parish, diocese and wider community enhances student learning and helps cultivate a holistic learning environment. Parents and families are recognised as integral members of the school community. St Joseph's school does not exist in isolation but plays a major role in collaborating and engaging in dialogue with families, parish, other schools and the wider community to enhance the aspirations and outcomes for all students and families. Parent and community engagement is acknowledged and valued. This engagement affirms the value of education for students. Partnerships promote greater community contribution, ownership and trust of our school directions and decisions through open and authentic consultation.

Leadership and Stewardship

Leadership in a Catholic school, as ministry, is part of the mission of the Catholic Church. St Joseph's school cooperates with the Governing Authority, Fr Michael McKinnon to ensure the leadership and stewardship policies and strategies are aligned to school improvement and support sound management and effective governance of the school. It facilitates a positive climate amongst staff and community and promotes a clear sense of purpose and direction. Resources are effectively utilised to improve student learning outcomes and teacher development. Procedures are implemented which meet the accountability requirements of the System and Federal and State Governments.

Learning and Teaching

This aspect sees St Joseph's school as a community of learners. It ensures that students participate in high quality, evidence-based, collaboratively planned contemporary learning, marked by the distinctive nature of Catholic faith and tradition. Teachers actively engage in professional learning that draws upon and builds understandings of a viable curriculum for all students, theoretical perspectives underpinning effective teaching and learning practices, and evaluative practices that ensure a constant cycle of reflection and action that leads to improvement in all aspects of learning and teaching.

Wellbeing

This aspect of schooling is based on a deep respect for the dignity and the uniqueness of the human person as we are all made in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:7). There is an intentional focus on the social, emotional and mental wellbeing of all members of the school community. It promotes a sense of meaning and purpose in life that is supported by the spiritual dimension of a Catholic school. The wellbeing of the school community is an integral factor in effective learning and teaching and it will be enhanced by the creation of a culture that reflects positive relationships

and a strong connection within the school community. St Joseph's Primary School is committed to developing Behaviour Education and Self-Management (BESM) in students.

Values and Life Raft Concepts

Through our BESM approach we embrace a values-based approach that underpins our school culture. Through adopting the Play is the Way program we aim to practise our school values until they become a deeply engrained habit of action or a virtue. Across the whole school we focus on developing the virtues of Courage, Friendliness and Good Manners. In the senior school we additionally focus on Persistence, Compassion and Tolerance. It is our contention that children embodying these virtues will unavoidably be empathetic.

We also adopt five key life raft concepts that we teach students as an important part of our virtues philosophy. These five key concepts are:

- Treat others as you would like them to treat you
- Be brave – participate to progress
- Pursue your personal best no matter who you work with
- Have reasons for the things you say and do
- It takes great sense to be sensible

Statement of Philosophy Enactment

The school will demonstrate and enact the philosophy working with the School Advisory Council and the school community by including and implementing the school values in all school documentation, in all teaching and learning programs, in all school initiatives, in all internal and external interactions, in all organisational structures and practices. Regular evaluation of practice will be in place to measure performance in all areas of the school with respect to the implementation of the Vision, Mission and Values of the school.

SJPS has published the Vision, Mission and School Values in the school's handbook and on the school website; all are proudly displayed around the school on posters.