



INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN

PRESCHOOL POLICY

St Joseph's School, Ottoway

Reviewed: Term 1 2018

Next Review Due: Term 1, 2021

PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS

St Joseph's Preschool Code of Cooperation is framed within the Vision Statement for Catholic Schools. St Joseph's is a preschool which advocates justice, responsibility, integrity, compassion and honesty and demonstrates respect for individual dignity through restorative practices, inclusivity and authentic pastoral care.

AIMS

St. Joseph's staff recognises that children behave and respond to situations differently. We aim to cater for all children and assist them in making good choices and decisions.

OBJECTIVES

Our approach to supporting and managing children's behaviour recognises that

- Children's behaviour is a form of communication and is purposeful
- Children's capacity to choose appropriate behaviour is influenced by their developmental ability, temperament, interactions, life experiences and environmental factors
- Children have a right to respect and consideration as individuals and to be supported in their learning to develop appropriate behaviours for group settings
- We can support children to develop positive dispositions when behavioural expectations are explicit and take into consideration children's culture, age and stage of development, life experiences and the context of our preschool

St Joseph's Preschool educators believe:

- Children have the right to learn and develop in a psychological and physically safe environment
- Children have a right to express their feelings
- Children have the right to be supported to develop positive behaviours that underpin the development of relationships with peers and adults
- Children have the right to families and educators working together to develop common goals for their well-being, learning and development
- Children have the right to educators who understand that individual and contextual needs are crucial to successful learning and the development of positive behaviours
- Children have a right to expect that family consultation is valued and their individual perspectives respected
- Children have the right to be supported by educators who model appropriate behaviours and ensure consistent limits are set
- Children have a right to feel included, secure, confident and proud

At St Joseph's Preschool we aim to:

- Provide a safe and caring environment in which all students can develop spiritually, socially, academically and physically
- Provide relevant intentional teaching and appropriate learning opportunities to support the development of social skills
- Work in partnership with families to ensure behavioural and developmental needs are met
- Provide early intervention with challenging behaviours in a collaborative, sensitive, timely and appropriate manner

Implementation

At St. Joseph's Preschool we promote positive behaviour and interactions by:

- Planning for and providing an environment that promotes a sense of belonging, being and becoming
- Enhancing opportunities for learning through play
- Ensuring that expectations are reasonable and understood by all children and adults
- Providing an enriching and engaging program that enables each child to experience success, a sense of wellbeing and gives opportunities to express feelings through sensory and other forms of play
- Using positive verbal and non-verbal guidance
- Demonstrating empathy and sensitivity to each child being mindful of the variety of factors that influence behaviour
- Planning enabling opportunities for the development of skills including Resilience, Persistence, Getting Along, Organisation, Confidence agency, entry and exit skills when playing, appropriate risk taking, conflict resolution, independence, leadership, respect for others and communication
- Interacting positively, using positive language and acknowledging and modelling respectful behaviour
- Valuing children as individuals within their family and cultural context
- Involving children in goal setting, developing group norms and the development of behavioural expectations and consequences
- Intentional teaching of appropriate behaviours and play skills, building on each child's strengths and achievements and providing choices when possible
- Encouraging open two way communication with families to ensure that each child's rights are met

We will respond to challenging behaviours by:

- Referring to our code of cooperation to remind children of expectations and limits and the reasons for these
- Supporting children to problem solve, negotiate, find resolutions and manage emotions appropriately

- Using Restorative Justice practices that support children to empathise with others and restore relationships
- Provide opportunities for skill development throughout the program, such as resilience, social, coping and communication skills and protective behaviours
- Communicating with and involving families at the earliest opportunity to work together positively to assist the child's wellbeing and learning
- Assessing individual children's learning and development and reflecting on and reviewing our planned program and how the active learning environment supports positive behaviours work together as a team, using a consistent approach
- Planning, implementing, monitoring and reviewing individual behaviour plans in partnership with families and support services
- Monitoring and reporting procedures that focus on children's progress and achievements
- Being aware of our limitations and seeking assistance when required
- When essential, withdrawing children if they are at risk of hurting themselves or others, ensuring that an adult is with them all the time

At Joseph's Preschool Code of Cooperation

At St Joseph's Preschool every person has a fundamental right to feel safe and be treated with dignity and respect. It is the responsibility of every person to respect and support the basic rights of others.

This right was explored with the preschool students and expressed in the following way:

“We want everyone in preschool to be safe and happy”

This means we

- Listen to the teacher and our friends
- Care for our friends
- Say kind things
- Take turns
- Share
- Look after our things
- Look after our preschool equipment
- Keep trying

Related documents

- St Joseph's School Personal Responsibility Policy

The School Board reviews and develops policies that take into account our context and recognised regulations and standards.

Preschool Teacher's Signature: _____ Date: / /
CATHERINE CROSBIE

Principal's Signature: _____ Date: / /
SHAUN O'LEARY

Preschool ESO'S Signature: _____ Date: / /
JANET JAMES

Ratified by Preschool Board –

Chairperson's Signature: _____ Date: / /