



# St Joseph's School

PO Box 19  
WYNDHAM 6740

Phone: (08) 9161 1021  
Fax: (08) 9161 1247

## ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL PASTORAL CARE POLICY

### School Vision

In the spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, St Joseph's School Wyndham is a welcoming and supportive Catholic Community. We challenge our community members to discover God in themselves and in others, and to live by Gospel values. We are committed to enabling personal growth and academic excellence. We respect cultural diversity and acknowledge and share our differences.

### School Mission

Recognition of the cultural diversity of St Joseph's School in Wyndham permeates all teaching and learning through mutual sharing of the development of meaningful relationships.

We develop relationships by:

- Bearing witness to Jesus' message by the way we live, the way we relate to each other, and participation in parish/school life.
- Providing a challenging and comprehensive curriculum that through best practise, promotes a respect of learning and a positive view of self as a lifelong learner for every individual.
- Ensuring that the needs of the whole person are met - spiritually, socially, emotionally, academically and physically.
- Demonstrating our support through open communication, pastoral care and service.
- Committing to continuously building partnerships with the community to encourage regular attendance and engaged learners.

### Values and Beliefs

- We believe that the parents are the first educators of their children.
- We will always personally do our best to meet the needs of our students.
- We will support all staff and students to be their best.
- We will be honest and positive in dealing with all community members.

# PASTORAL CARE AT ST JOSEPHS SCHOOL WYNDHAM

The spirit of pastoral care is evident in St Joseph's School community by the concern for people and the atmosphere of family in the school. The integration of the academic, social and religious dimensions of St Joseph's School allow an atmosphere of care to prevail. Our school's pastoral care is concerned with establishing harmony with ourselves, our earth and our God.

Pastoral care is integral to the daily of our school and is experienced whenever people of our school community interact creatively. It embraces the total life of the school by contributing to the realisation of gifts within each person and a commitment to the wellbeing of society. Each person of our school community is invited to become more fully human. In cooperation with parents, families, Church and community agencies, St Joseph's School seeks to be partners in fostering growth among students and nurturing them into the wisdoms and stories of Wyndham community.

At St Joseph's School, our pastoral dimension shows itself in the mutual care and support administrators and staff show towards each other as well as through the care we show for our students. We stress that every staff member shares responsibility for the pastoral dimension St Joseph's School. All staff are asked to take opportunities to develop personal contacts that will help them better understand our student's needs.

While positive relationships are the core of pastoral Care a number of policies have been developed to provide structure and assistance. These policies include:

- Behavioural Management
- Religious Education Policy
- Critical Incident Management Plan
- Harassment policy

As well as the above policies, a number of practices have evolved to support and compliment these policies: -

- School assemblies, incorporating citizenship, academic, and trying hard, outstanding achievement awards
- Birthdays acknowledged at assemblies
- School masses
- Classrooms meetings
- Behaviour management
- Morning teas for staff (birthdays, special events)
- Morning teas for parents (NAIDOC week, after masses, Sacraments)
- Student Leadership Councils

Through the Religious Education Curriculum, class rules, modelling and interactions at St Joseph's School, the images of God evident among our teachers and portrayed to our students are a:-

- Loving God
- Forgiving God
- God who respects all
- Trusting God
- Father/Carer
- Someone to turn to in times of need
- Patient and understanding God
- Fair and just God

As a staff, the beliefs we hold in common are:

- We are all equal, important and valued
- We must respect each other and always afford people the dignity they deserve as Christ's children
- We are role models providing examples to the children of living as Christ would
- The need to instil a belief of the importance of education in the lives of our students.
- We are custodians of the land and must respect and care for it
- Teamwork, patience and cooperation with the students and each other, will achieve success.

The Religious Dimension of the Catholic school infuses all aspects of school life. The full dignity of the human person is enhanced when the three elements, environment, curriculum and policy are interlinked.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

At St Joseph's School we aim to build community. All staff members endeavour to live a life of faith and interact with students and each other, as Jesus would have. An atmosphere of fairness, justice and personal responsibility permeate all school situations. This helps to develop responsible members of society as well as closer followers of Jesus.

Prayer, liturgy, celebration and participation in the Sacraments form the basis of our mission as educators of the children in the life of Jesus. The values of the Sacraments are reflected in school policies and practices i.e. acceptance, forgiveness and nourishment.

## COMMUNITY DIMENSIONS

At St Joseph's School we aim to work with parents as partners in the education of their children. Parents are invited to class masses and assemblies, Easter ceremonies and Christmas concerts. They are invited to participate in the everyday life of the school by volunteering their time and skills in various curriculum areas like Art, Aboriginal celebrations, storytelling etc.

Community resources are also utilised to educate the children

Eg. Clinic staff to speak on health issues

Ngower Aerwah (Aboriginal Corporation) visit often.

All community members are invited to share the richness of their Aboriginal culture during NAIDOC week.

The school works closely with the Parish priest and pastoral team in relation to all aspects of liturgies and the Sacramental Program. Parents are invited to parish retreat days, activity afternoons and masses. The Parish priest meets with students on Monday mornings. He is a visible presence of the Church in the school.

The school board meets twice a term to discuss school matters and implement decisions.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SECTOR

At present, there is the Principal as the administrative team. The Principal works together with staff to implement a management plan based on consultation, involvement, participation and ownership by all staff. Fair and reasonable thought prior to decision-making is made at all levels: students by staff and staff by administration.

## CURRICULUM

Curriculum is the total, school directed experience of students during schooling. At St Joseph's School, the curriculum: -

- Considers the needs of all students
- Is adaptable and flexible
- Includes appropriate methods of assessment, evaluation and reporting
- Is informed by the principles of catholic social justice teachings
- Provides for the acquisition of concepts, the learning of facts, development of life skills, examination of attitudes and an exploration of their beliefs and values.

Teachers and Aboriginal Teaching Assistants work with the students in groups, especially in the areas of numeracy and literacy to better cater to their learning needs. Teachers use the Whole School Literacy and Numeracy Plans as a way to track progress and ensure continuity in the

education of the students as they progress through school. In Literacy and Numeracy the whole group, small group – explicit teaching, whole group reflection approach is taken. This has been mandated to ensure that all students are met at their point of need.

Aboriginality is acknowledged in all school activities. Community members are involved as much as possible.

## **POLICY AND PRACTICE**

At St Joseph's School, we have a duty of care to protect the welfare of every person in our school community. We are committed to protect the welfare of every person in our school community. Punctuality and attendance at playground and classroom duties is a priority.

The students need to learn to satisfy their needs in a way that respects the rights of others and realise that as individuals they are responsible for their actions. At St Joseph's School the students are encouraged to develop self-discipline strategies in order to grow into social beings capable of functioning within the expectations of society. By implementing a school wide, self-discipline (PATHs) approach to behaviour management the children will:

- Grow and be affirmed in their dignity and worth as a person
- Develop skills in building personal relationships
- Experience the connection between their behaviour and consequences
- Develop non-aggressive means of coping with problems
  
- All staff is responsible for the school discipline policy as such need: -
- Similar expectations acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- Follow through with the agreed rules and procedures
- Consistently acknowledge acceptable/positive behaviour

(See Behaviour Management Policy)

## **ADMINISTRATION**

The allocation of resources across the school is fair and equitable. Needs are assessed and supported in their individual merits.

St Joseph's School welcomes all enrolments. We are sympathetic to the movements of the children between schools as families move around the Kimberley. No fees are paid.

## **SCHOOL COMMUNITY:**

At the beginning of each school year there will be a general parent meeting to discuss procedures and expectations. Each class teacher will speak to the parents about individual class expectations.

Parents are given school reports at a teacher parent interview mid year and at the end of the year. School information is imparted to parents via school newsletters, notes home and through the School Liaison Officer.

#### SCHOOL PERSONNEL

At present we have a Principal, 4 classroom teachers, 1 support teachers and 5 ATA's. All staff is supported in gaining Professional Development in areas of need or interest eg. Early childhood, RE Accreditation etc.

St Joseph's School utilises its pupil free days for a good balance of professional development and faith development.

Staff meet weekly for meetings and weekly for prayer and shared lunch on Friday's at 1.00pm.