

St Joseph's School Wyndham.

POLICY STATEMENT

May 2005 due for revision 2007.

**EVANGELISATION POLICY ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL  
WYNDHAM.**

SCHOOL MOTO:

**WE ARE ONE**

SCHOOL VISION

We at St Joseph's, are a welcoming and supportive Catholic School Community. We recognise, respect and nature the gifts of each of us. We are committed to providing quality education, which develops the whole person.

SCHOOL MISSION

- Create and foster hope, acceptance, reconciliation, respect and equality.
- Demonstrate our support through open communication, pastoral care and service to all.
- Welcome and encourage participation in School and Parish life.
- Provide an education that reflects our Catholic Identity.
- Bare witness to Jesus' message by the way we live and relate to each other.
- Ensure that the needs of the whole person are met - spiritually, socially, emotionally, academically and physically.
- Provide a challenging, innovative and comprehensive curriculum that promotes a respect of learning and a positive view of self as a life long learner.

# **ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL PRAYER**

GOD OUR FATHER

WE THANKYOU FOR ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL AND FOR ALL WHO MAKE IT A SPECIAL PLACE.

BLESS THE CHILDREN WHO ARE GROWING IN THE LOVE OF JESUS.

BLESS OUR PARENTS AND TEACHERS WHO HELP US TO LOVE AND CARE FOR OTHERS AND HELP US TO LEARN.

WE REMEMBER WITH THANKS THE JOSEPHITE SISTERS AND OTHER SISTERS AND OTHER SISTERS WHO HAVE WORKED IN OUR SCHOOL.

WE PRAY FOR OUR PARISH OF OUR QUEEN OF APOSTLES AND OUR TOWN OF WYNDHAM.

MAY OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY ALWAYS BE A PLACE OF LOVE, PEACE, LEARNING AND LAUGHTER.

AMEN

## **PREAMBLE**

We at St Joseph's commit to being a Catholic Education Community, involving Teachers, Students and families. Religious Education is a focal point in our day-to-day school life. It is seen as an area in curricula which brings together many other disciplines and aspects of life, integrating these in a context of Faith. The school works closely with families and the Parish in preparing students for the Sacraments.

### **Evangelisation happens when there is:**

- An openness to personal evolvment of own faith formation.
- An atmosphere of freedom of spirituality.
- The sharing of Jesus' message.
- The integration of Gospel values throughout the curriculum of the school.
- Increased knowledge of church's faith traditions.
- Pastoral care, which is the responsibility of all members of the educational community.
- A respect for cultural beliefs and individual differences.
- Active modeling of Gospel values by the school community

### **CATHOLIC ETHOS**

- Creed.
- Commandments.
- Living and learning the Gospels.
- Beatitudes.
- Mass / Prayer / Feast Days / Eucharist / Word.
- Sacramental preparation.
- Value of divine and human relationships.

- Bible as major tool of evangelisation process.
- Personal faith development as a continually evolving process.

#### Beatitudes

As part of class programs and school culture.

#### Mass / Prayer

- Feast days.
- Liturgy of the word (Eucharist).
- Graduation Mass.
- Commissioning Mass
- Sacramental Masses
- Prayer Services
- Hymn Singing
- Staff Prayer
- Daily class prayers

#### Creed

WE BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER, THE SON AND HOLY SPIRIT

- Trinity
- Christmas Concert
- Easter
- Humanness of Jesus
- Mystery of Divinity and Creation

WE BELIEVE IN THE ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC CHURCH

- Class Masses / Liturgies
- Parish Liaison
- Daily Prayer
- Sacraments

WE ACKNOWLEDGE ONE BAPTISM FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

- Reconciliation
- NAIDOC Celebrations
- Behavior Management Policy

WE LOOK FOR THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD AND THE LIFE OF THE WORLD TO COME

- Easter Story
- Masses - All Saints / All Souls Day
- Respect for cultural traditions
- Respecting / Promoting individuals spiritual readiness

## CURRENT CONTEXT

We are committed to providing the best possible education environment for all children. As a school we don't spend our energies focusing on issues that are out of our control. Our job is to focus on 'best practice' in our teaching and learning outcomes. Nevertheless we have identified these barriers as contributing factors to School Attendance and Achievement in School,

- Transience
- Access to Employment
- Low Standards of Living
- Low Standards of Accommodation
- Low Levels of Health and Nutrition
- Violence in the Community
- Access and Retention of Quality School Staff including Teachers
- Health Problems including Alcoholism

### Students

- 98 children
- Aboriginal 95%
- Non Aboriginal 5%
- Catholic 60%
- Other 40%
- Languages- Standard Australian English
- Aboriginal English
- Experiences of formal Religion- Town, Community, No experience

### Community

- Family / Extended family experiences / involvement – many children living with extended family, many children moving from one community to another on a frequent basis, many children only 'belonging' to us for a short amount of time e.g. kids at the Rehabilitation Centre.
- Important local traditions and customs – knowing and recognizing significant family contributions
- Socio-economic factors – many families living without an employed adult in the family
- Community

### School Staff

- Recognising the importance of Teaching assistants and their links to family and friends in the community.
- Recognising the fact that among teaching staff there are no locals.
- Recognising the fact that most teaching staff only remain at the school for a period of two years.

- Recognising the difficulties of employing Catholic teachers who are trained or have experience teaching Religious Education.
- Recognising that staff have their own unique Faith Journey – and finding ways to best support where people are.

#### CURRENT PRACTICES

##### **Students**

- R.E. classes
- Sacramental Program
- School Masses/ Class Masses/ Class Paraliturgies/ School Paraliturgies
- Prayer Times- Daily / Weekly
- Praying together as a whole school weekly - school assembly
- Attention to means of paying respect/ being courteous
- Prayer tables in classroom
- Acknowledge events in the wider community and student's understandings/ reactions
- Sharing of real-life stories/real situations
- Involvement in special community ceremonies
- Modeling a willingness to listen
- Health room- teaching the children personal hygiene
- Personal development program run each year with the Year 6/7's.
- Raising money for Parish and Community
- Project Compassion Boxes in classrooms
- Student Leadership Team
- Being positive with the children
- Confidentiality between the children
- Teaching the children to respect the property of others
- Teaching the children to respect creation
- Modeling respect for different religions
- Implementation of whole school program on self-esteem, teasing and respect for others. STOP THINK DO
- Great involvement of Parish Priest - enhances relationships though regular visits.

##### **Staff**

- Staff Prayer on Monday afternoons
- Encouraged participation in Parish life and celebrations
- Colleague Support
- Modeling appropriate 'Christ like' behavior in attitudes towards other people.
- Professional Development for school leadership – in particular Principal and REC
- Respecting other people's culture
- The way people act at staff meetings
- Working as a team
- Respecting the views of others
- Confidentiality between staff

- Respecting students' opinions/views
- Willingness to listen
- Being flexible
- Staff Social Gatherings
- Staff Christmas dinner
- Involvement in community fundraisers
- Liaison with parish community – in particular Fr Mark and Sr Veronica
- School shirts for staff (staff designed, foster sense of belonging)

#### Community

- Community Masses
- Inviting the wider community to be part of school para-liturgies, masses, and Naidoc week celebrations.
- Christmas Concert
- School Involvement in Parish Events
- School bus and staff used to pick up community members for parish celebrations
- CARITAS
- Strong links with Fr Mark and Sr Veronica
- T.A. visits to community - families
- Newsletter Prayer
- Parent / friends open days
- School Support for TA's to attend cultural meetings and represent the school on local committees
- School Support for Community Celebrations / Events.

#### FUTURE INITIATIVES

##### Students

- Create a format outline for mass and class masses so that there is a standard throughout the school. For example, four steps to be included:
  1. Listen to God - Readings
  2. Talk to God - Prayers of the Faithful
  3. Give to God - Offertory
  4. Receive from God – Eucharist
- Increased involvement from children in planning and preparing prayer and liturgies.

##### Staff

- Encourage a supportive atmosphere for people to feel more comfortable to give suggestions, run a mass etc. Do this through:
  - giving more knowledge through trial and error
  - give a definite structure to use
  - give ideas
- Plan a school mass together as a staff so that people are exposed to it and feel less fearful towards planning a mass on their own.

- A better school-based induction programme  
-especially in regard to Aboriginal cultures to promote understandings;  
-ongoing Pd in regard to Aboriginal cultures.
- Increased willingness to listen/respond/take into consideration views and ideas expressed
- More personal and spiritual development
- More community involvement
- T.A. involvement in staff inductions
- Regular retreat days

#### Community

- More attention to education of Parents and the wider community through:  
-Sacramental meetings  
-weekly bulletins in the newsletter to outline the current RE focus.
- More involvement by the community in the planning of school / parish masses
- More culturally appropriate aspects of masses/services (e.g. smoking ceremonies)

### **SUMMARY:TIMELINE**

#### Immediate 2004

Practice mass responses so that they know them- prayer assembly.

- Create a format outline for mass and class masses so that there is a standard throughout the school. For example, four steps to be included:
  1. Listen to God - Readings
  2. Talk to God - Prayers of the Faithful
  3. Give to God - Offertory
  4. Receive from God – Eucharist
- Represent stories in different ways such as role-plays, dance, pictorially to enhance understanding.
- More attention to education of Parents and the wider community through: Sacramental Meetings.
- More attention to education of Parents and the wider community through:
  - weekly bulletins in the newsletter to outline the current RE focus.
  - more PD on how to 'bring out' the guidelines of the Religious Education programs.
  - encourage a supportive atmosphere for people to feel more comfortable to give suggestions, run a mass etc. Do this through:
    - giving more knowledge through trial and error
    - give a definite structure to use
    - give ideas

#### Longer Term

- Create a Holy Place for students and staff to go to

#### Evaluation:

When do we stop to consider progress?

Student:

- Observation of incidences of teasing / bullying
- Self evaluation statements- perhaps incorporate in diary writing and journaling
- Student Leadership Team addressing issues raised

Staff:

- Staff Meeting debriefing / discussion
- Term "Focus" in staffroom-aspects of Evangelisation Policy
- Teacher Meetings
- P.D. Days
- Two year evaluation / review on the policy

Wider Community:

- Morning Tea for community members who join us for mass - organized by class
- Personal invitations to school masses

REVIEW DATE - 2007