

St. John the Baptist Parish School

Learning & Teaching Policy

Rationale

At St John the Baptist Parish School we believe that parents are the primary educators of their children. Therefore we value the partnership, cooperation and contributions of parents in the teaching and learning of our students.

We also believe that all students can learn when appropriate expectations, time and support are provided and maintained through effective teaching and learning.

Finally, we believe that effective teaching and learning occurs within trusting relationships based on mutual care and respect and a shared love of learning.

Learning Principles

We believe that children learn most effectively when they:

- feel happy and secure within themselves and their learning environment
- see teachers and parents working in cooperation
- feel supported and valued by their parents and teachers
- have clear parameters for behaviour
- have a sense of personal responsibility for their learning and behaviour and are able to function independently within their environment
- are engaged in activities which incorporate their life's experiences
- know that their individual differences and talents are recognised and valued by others
- enjoy cooperative relationship with peers and teachers
- are given explicit teaching instructions
- receive prompt feedback about their learning and are able to recognise their own achievements and progress
- communicate and cooperate in individual, group and whole class activities
- are confident in taking risks in their learning

- experience success at their own stage of development and are challenged to extend their learning
- are able to express their learning in variety of ways
- are able to make personal decisions within learning tasks and to reflect on and evaluate their own learning performance
- are exposed to effective demonstration and modelling by peers, parents and teachers

Therefore, we must:

- provide a welcoming, safe and secure environment in which all children are comfortable, are able to focus on learning and able to experience success
- offer a high level of pastoral support to children experiencing social, emotional and intellectual difficulties
- encourage productive use of time
- know each child as fully as possible and demonstrate respect for each individual at all times
- build and support each child's self esteem and confidence
- ensure equitable access to the curriculum to all children
- maintain high expectations for behaviour and learning and communicate these clearly to both children and parents
- maintain effective communication with parents about their child's progress and well being and provide parents with the information they need in order to support learning
- monitor and assess learning regularly and provide prompt, specific feedback to children about their success and their area of need
- require children to reflect on and articulate their learning and where appropriate, involve them in assessment and planning of future learning goals
- encourage independence in thinking and learning
- plan for the development of interpersonal skills within cooperative class routines, groupings and tasks
- evaluate the effectiveness of programs continuously and be prepared to extend or modify them in light of student needs and interests

- use a variety of learning tools and practices
- keep informed of current trends and practises in education through professional reading and professional development activities and be open to change that may lead to improved learning
- provide personal and professional support of each other
- provide effective feedback for each other
- offer a curriculum in which individuals are given the opportunity to succeed at their own level
- provide stimulating and purposeful activities that utilise children's interests and challenge their thinking and learning
- present "learning" as a life long process that involves risk taking.

Procedures

The Victorian Curriculum and the Religious Education Standards provide the framework for the curriculum from Foundation to Year 6. They outline what is essential for our students to learn during their time at school from Foundation to Year 6. The Victorian Curriculum provides a set of common state & national-wide standards which St John the Baptist Parish school use to plan student learning programs, assess student progress and report to parents.