

St Mary's School Early Years Policy Statement

Policy Statement:

In alignment with the Archdiocese of Brisbane, Catholic Education Council, Early Years Policy (2001), St Mary's School is committed to.....

Ensuring, continuity of learning for every child across the Early Years. This will be achieved through the provision of a holistic, outcomes based curriculum which is responsive to each child's diverse and unique spiritual, social, emotional learning and developmental needs and circumstances. Continuity of learning will be enhanced through the establishment and maintenance of effective, collaborative partnerships within the learning community together with the incorporation of relevant and meaningful active learning experiences.

For St Mary's School community this involves:-

- Development of social skills that model and reflect appropriate school behaviours.
- Building strong foundations in literacy and numeracy.
- Providing a range of early intervention strategies.
- Nurturing spirituality and faith development.

Introduction

The holistic development of the child in the Early Years provides a strong foundation for success throughout life. The term *Early Years* refers to the years of schooling from Preschool to Year 3.

At St Mary's our teachers are committed to collaborative partnerships to ensure continuity of learning across the Early Years. This is linked to our Mission Statement:

We want to provide our children with optimal learning experiences by the provision of quality surroundings and resources so that all students are challenged to strive for excellence irrespective of their individual differences

The Roles of the Lifelong Learner within the BCE Learning Framework form an integral component of teaching and learning in the Early Years at St Mary's.

The planned learning outcomes are linked to the Indicators of Successful Learning in the Early Years. (See Early Years Guidelines)

Rationale

- To acknowledge and support parents as the primary educators of their children
- To give the children the skills to celebrate their uniqueness and to develop social, emotional and behavioural well being.
- To ensure the children's sense of self and sense of God is based on love, kindness, patience, dependability and trust, ideally modelled by all members of the school and faith community
- To use purposeful play and active participation to enable all children to experience success in learning
- To provide flexible, supportive and encouraging environments
- To encourage ongoing development of effective partnerships with staff and parents
- To develop consistency and continuity across the Early Years
- To continue the connectedness as children make various transitions throughout their schooling
- To continue professional development of staff across all Key Learning Areas's
- To celebrate community, the environment and the curriculum

At St Mary's we will:-

- Establish and support effective partnerships with children, parents/carers and other professionals
- Support open communication between school and parents/caregivers.
- Recognise and nurture the faith journey of each child
- Create learning environments that give every child the opportunity to experience success
- Provide safe and developmentally appropriate indoor/outdoor learning spaces
- Provide child centred learning opportunities for the development of lifelong learners
- Promote the continuity of P-3 curriculum and philosophy
- Support networking of teachers across the Early Years to ensure continuity and ease of transition
- Provide professional opportunities for staff to ensure the best teaching/learning opportunities are provided
- Establish appropriate budgetary allocations to ensure adequate resourcing.