

Teaching & Learning Policy

Rationale

St. Elizabeth's Parish School exists to promote the growth of Christian faith and lifelong learning in our students. We believe our learning environment should be built on relationships of trust and respect, valuing both the individual and the community. We believe that we are all unique in our ability to learn and we can all experience success given enough time and support. We believe education is about supporting children to make informed choices so that they can grow into being the very best people they can be. We believe learning and teaching should be rewarding for all concerned and should equip our children to live actively and harmoniously in our global community, both now and in their own future.

Principles

Teaching and learning at St. Elizabeth's Parish School is underpinned by the belief that we must empower students to become independent, self directed learners, who are skilled thinkers and risk-takers; who are interdependent and display inter/intra personal skills; who possess a range of technological skills, conceptual skills and artistic skills; who experiment, find problems and then solve them; who confidently make decisions and generate ideas that transform into action that ultimately improve their own lives and the lives of others.

To achieve these ends, we believe the Contemporary Learning Schema below, provides us with a model of teaching and learning that prepares our students for their future, not our past.



Supporting the Learner

Rigorous and relevant learning opportunities lead students to explore and question significant ideas and create new knowledge. When learning is personalised, students' interests and experiences are valued and reflected in the curriculum. Learners are supported by explicit and scaffolded teaching to engage fully in their learning.

Learning spaces that connect learners to communities beyond the school provide opportunities to engage with diverse perspectives and collaborate with others. Flexible access enables learning anywhere, anytime.

When teachers create a climate that promotes inquiry and creative exploration of ideas, learners are supported to engage in deep and powerful learning.

Enabling the Learner

Contemporary learning gives careful attention to identifying core knowledge, skills and understandings are required to be successful in and participate fully in today's world. Powerful learning opportunities are created for students when core knowledge and skills are integrated across the curriculum in authentic ways.

Reflection, high order thinking, creativity, collaboration and the use of contemporary literacies must now be considered core capacities. These are important for creating new knowledge and participating in and contributing to community.

To successfully participate in and contribute to today's world, students need to develop culturally relevant and valued literate practices. They need to create and interact with diverse text forms and engage critically and effectively in a multi-modal world. Essential to a contemporary view of literacy is the capacity to communicate appropriately across a range of social contexts.

Engaging in the Contemporary World

Curriculum designed to engage students in the contemporary world leads students to develop deep understandings about themselves, others and the world. Building learning relationships within the global and local community creates authentic opportunities for students to learn from and with others. Powerful learning experiences enable students to take responsibility for themselves and commit to authentic action.

Engagement in the contemporary world enables ongoing personal transformation; a way of discovering God and meaning about self and the world; the potential of the human person and of empowering individuals to be responsible for their lives. In a Catholic school context engagement in the contemporary world through a commitment to action is developed within the framework of a school's vision which inspires compassion, justice and service.

Objectives

- To make Faith real for all; students, staff and parents experiencing and recognising Christ in themselves and others in their day to day lives.
- To support an educational program that allows each child to experience success.
- To provide an educational context where students aim to become confident, organized, persistent and resilient students who can get along with other people.
- To foster a high level of engagement with learning for all students and staff by providing a rich focused inquiry based learning environment.
- To foster and maintain a strong sense of partnership and positive relationships between home and school.
- To promote high but realistic expectations established on a foundation of trust.
- To recognize, support and inspire all involved in education to see themselves as life long learners in a global community.
- To develop the skills, attitudes and knowledge in our students that will help them contribute positively as active citizens in this global community.
- To provide appropriate resources and facilities and a wide range of learning opportunities which promote high level thinking, creative imagining and a strong feeling of connectedness.

Staff Responsibilities

As a teaching staff we see ourselves as a community of life-long learners committed to the provision of innovative learning opportunities for every student.

We respect that parents are the first educators of their children and we work in a spirit of trust and co-operation to exchange appropriate information and support in the interests of each child's learning.

We strive to build a school community of lifelong learners, nurturing student's relationships with other children and adults, encouraging curiosity and sharing a sense of fun.

We encourage our students to be responsible for their own learning and give them pertinent feedback from timely assessment so they can confidently develop their own goals for future learning.

We accept responsibility for working consistently to ensure that all children develop spiritually, academically, physically, emotionally and socially

We value each individual child, respecting their unique strengths, talents, and family background.

We provide rich learning environments where learning is relevant and purposeful as well as providing structured, focused learning opportunities which are designed to support students at their own point of need.

We design, plan and teach a rich and contemporary curriculum based on inquiry taking into account external requirements, expected standards, local needs and student's interests.

We understand that each child needs the skills and attitudes that will allow them to participate in a global community in the future, a future we can only try to imagine.

We monitor, evaluate, report and communicate learning achievements to parents and students as well as appropriate authorities as required.

We encourage and support our students to reach their full potential, we believe that all students can learn successfully and we hold high but realistic expectations for each of them.

We believe that children learn best when they are engaged in learning programs which are planned at a level at which they can achieve success and we understand mistakes to be a valued part of that learning process.

We create and maintain well organized learning environments with attractive surroundings and safe facilities.

We seek to provide resources and facilities that support contemporary learning.

Student Responsibilities

To be responsible for their learning and have a sense of ownership of their own learning.

To be risk-takers, confident to have a go, to be participants in a variety of learning situations, be it group, paired, individual, larger group setting or whole school activities.

To develop a positive and flexible attitude.

To respect and value other individuals and work co-operatively at all times.

To contribute to a sense of community.

To respect the school environment and its resources.

To be honest.

To think positively and encouragingly about themselves and others.

To help to make St. Elizabeth's a place where we share laughter and a sense of fun.

To welcome others into friendship groups.

To consistently work to the best of their ability, taking pride in their own achievements, being happy with a 'personal best'.

To be resilient, managing life's ups and downs with a sense of good humour.

To be organized, have things ready, be prepared for learning.

To be able to ask for help when the going is tough and support is needed.

To have the courage to speak up when things are not right

To stay curious about life inside and outside of school

To step into leadership roles when there is a need.

To be a participant in a broad range of activities, designing, imagining, creating, analyzing, building, inquiring, thinking,

Parent / Guardian Responsibilities

To work in a partnership with staff of the school in a spirit of co-operation and trust.

To foster a spirit of inquiry and curiosity in each child and nurture in them a positive attitude to learning.

To respect the professional wisdom and skills of the staff.

To share information as appropriate.

To understand and respect that the academic, social, physical, spiritual and emotional development of each child is unique.

To encourage the wellbeing of their own children and other students by supporting the school's policies and protocols.

To encourage children to see themselves as responsible for their own learning and promote the behaviours of independence and resilience.

Implementation
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To provide timely and constructive feedback to staff to support school/home partnerships in the interests of the children.

To honour the commitments to support the learning environment, eg: following through with homework policy, paying fees, providing school uniform etc.

To support the staff in administrative tasks.(eg: returning forms promptly, returning phone calls, keeping us up to date with contact details etc)