

"LET PEACE BE FOUND HERE"

St John's Primary School

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Parent Participation Policy

St John's Primary School is a dynamic faith learning community that prides itself as a welcoming family to all. We focus on involvement in our community and in the development of the whole person.

We are committed to providing a safe learning environment that enhances the physical, educational and social development of our students.

St John's Primary School respects parents' fundamental human right to know, understand and share in decisions that affect the education of their children. Parents have a natural responsibility for the education of their children and an important role to play in support of their children and staff within the home and the school community.

St John's Primary School promotes effective relationships, a safe and happy learning environment and open and honest communication throughout the school community.

Parent participation in a variety of roles affirms the important role of parents throughout the school and with the broader community in supporting the learning and development of their children.

Parents may approach the school to:

- discuss the progress, engagement or well-being of their child
- enquire about school policy and practice
- assist teachers as a classroom helper or on excursions
- convey information about changes of address, custody details and child health issues
- express concern about actions of other students
- express concern about actions of staff

Parents are also encouraged to:

- work in conjunction with staff to support and promote school programs
- support the school through involvement in the School Advisory Council and the Parents and Friends Committee
- be conscious of protocols concerning school organisation
- help to maintain the school's aesthetic appearance
- support the school in areas of fundraising and maintenance
- ensure their children are punctual to class every day

Code of Conduct

Parents play a formative role in the development of their child's sense of justice, equity and the dignity and worth of all members of our school community. They also act as one of the most influential role models within a child's life, therefore the onus for promoting and upholding the core values of our school community must fall on all those with the greatest capacity to reason and control their actions. It is a clear expectation of the community that all parents model acceptable behaviour at all times within the school setting at St John's Primary School.

All parents/ carers and visitors are expected to:

- Treat all persons associated with the school with respect and courtesy
- Allow staff to supervise, investigate and manage students without interference
- Make mutually convenient appointments to obtain an interview with school staff. Teachers and visiting staff are not available during teaching time
- Monitor all pre-school children who must stay with their accompanying adult at all times
- Sign in for a visitors pass from the office if assisting in class or elsewhere within the school
- Accept and respect individual differences of the children within the school community

Parents are further expected to:

- Support their children in all their educational endeavours by giving praise and showing interest in their school activities.

Help your child to discover that it is often the process that is experienced rather than the end product that makes it all worthwhile; that giving of your very best is what matters rather than always comparing yourself against the capabilities of others.

- Ensure that all of our children feel safe at school

There may be times when you feel that the actions of another child have infringed upon the rights of your own child. Under no circumstances is a parent or guardian to approach another child whilst they are in the care of the school to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards their own child. Such an approach to the child may be seen to be an assault on the child and may have legal consequences. It is appropriate to approach the class teacher or the School Principal to seek their intervention in bringing about an equitable and peaceful solution to the situation.

- Accept that bullying has no place within our community and as such will not be tolerated.

This is as true for adult-to-adult interaction as it is for child-to-child. All interactions between members of our community must be in keeping with the values espoused by the school through its school policies. Instances of bullying must quickly be brought to the attention of the school staff so that justice may be achieved for all involved in the conflict.

- Be positive always

We all have bad days and, at times, events occur which don't always appear fair. However it is often the case that the injustice was not intentional, and many times not even apparent to others. Always approach these situations in a spirit of co-operation and genuine partnership. It is amazing how easily and quickly most situations can be resolved.

- Show awareness that a child's perception is not the same as an adult's due to developmental maturity

A child is not necessarily lying when their story conflicts with another or when the teacher's perspective does not match what you have been told at home. Children see their world through their own limited experiences, which colour their perceptions. Adult perceptions are balanced with life experiences. Listen to your child as they tell you their "reality", but remember that a different "reality" may possibly exist elsewhere. Open, honest discussion with school staff is essential in these situations.

- Understand that children may and do act differently at home and school

When faced with an audience of their own peers, often children will act/react in a way which appears completely out of character to you and the saying "My child wouldn't do that", might not hold for all situations. Be open to all possibilities.

- Protect people's good name

Problems, differences of opinion and personality clashes are not resolved by involving other people in a disagreement or by taking sides in an argument. Attempt to resolve these issues through calm dialogue between the parties directly involved, whilst respecting the dignity of each and every person.

- Separate opinion from fact

An approach to the relevant personnel within the school to verify the factual basis of a story, can assist in allaying your fears as to an event in question and the intent involved.

- Actively listen to another's point of view

It may be that the perspective from which the parent is approaching the situation is foreign to the other party and each may be equally of value.

- Follow correct procedures in times of conflict to ensure all parties are heard and for harmonious solutions to be reached.

If the conflict centres on a classroom issue, the first approach should always be made with the classroom teacher. If a resolution is not reached then it is appropriate to involve the school administration. Should the matter result from a situation outside of classroom matters then it is appropriate to discuss this with a member of the school administration in the first instance. If parents remain dissatisfied with the result then a formal complaint can be made to the Catholic Education Office in Warrnambool.

- Remember that Confidentiality is of primary importance

All parent/ carers are not to discuss any information they obtain at school with anybody, other than classroom teachers or the Principal.

Reviewed: 2013

Ratified: 27 Aug 2013

Next Review: 2016