



ST BERNARD'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL UPPER MT GRAVATT

St Bernard's Catholic school, founded by the Sisters of St Joseph, shares in the educational mission of the church as part of St Bernard's Parish

RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

STATEMENT

Relationships within a school exist between students, teachers, parents, carers, guardians, extended family, the parish and integral with the broader community. St Bernard's Catholic Primary School recognises that positive relationships are the foundation of all communities and works to provide open, welcoming interactions between home, school, parish and community as they support each other through their distinctive roles in the education of children. *We acknowledge that every person is created in the image of God and therefore contributes to the pursuit of shared wisdom and the building of our Catholic community. (St Bernard's School Vision for Teaching and Learning - VLT).*

The school has an expectation that the Relationships Policy is enacted within the community.

Rationale

As reflected in our Christian values, building relationships on dignity, respect, compassion and diversity provides a foundation for children and adults to relate well with one another in all aspects of schooling. In the spirit of our Vision and Mission statement, Charism, Vision for Teaching and Learning and our whole School Wide Positive Behaviour 4 Learning everyone will work to build, develop and sustain relationships between school, families, parish and community.

Guiding Principles

Children in the classroom have the right to be treated with dignity and respect and the responsibility to extend dignity and respect to each other, all teachers, school staff and the community.

Children in the playground and within the school community have the right to be treated with dignity, respect and fairness, to be invited and included in play and to be safe. The school expects that it is the children's responsibility to accept these expectations and that these expectations are encouraged and endorsed by the school and its community (including school staff, parents and students). It is expected that they have the responsibility to treat all with dignity, respect and fairness, to invite and include all in their play and to provide a safe environment for others.

Children in the community have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, to be included, encouraged and nurtured to be a part of all school activities. They have the responsibility to be dignified, respectful and fully engaged in school life.

As the primary educators of their children parents, carers, guardians have the right and are encouraged to be actively engaged to contribute to the life of the school through consultation, participation, and active listening. All have the responsibility to be supportive and co-operative in building a community that promotes the Charism of St Bernard's Catholic School. *Parents are expected to be positive role-models by being active, interested and co-operative, and that they be aware of the school's Relationships Policy and endorse it with their children.*

OUR VISION

Learning is child-centred, where children are prepared as life-long learners to meet challenges as compassionate Christian members of our community.

OUR MISSION

To develop and nurture an environment where children learn about themselves, their world and God:

- By working in partnership with families, staff and the parish community
- By valuing the diversity of all members of our community
- By experiencing and living a Christian life in the Catholic faith.



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DESIRED PROCEDURES

- As people of dignity and compassion we fulfil our humanity most deeply through our relationships with other people
- Open, respectful, reciprocal communication is evident
- Sustainable learning environments that celebrate each child's uniqueness and encourage personal growth, well-being and social development
- Positive partnerships and interaction between all parties are compassionate, just and respectful (VTL)
- Collaborative relationships exist between school, parents, parish and the wider community
- Hopes, contributions, challenges and concerns of people of all ages are acknowledged.

Endorsement

The St Bernard's Catholic School Board, in conjunction with the school staff, and parent and parish community, endorses this policy.

August 2013

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