



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

CATHOLIC IDENTITY POLICY

STATEMENT

St Bernard's Catholic Primary School, founded by the Sisters of St Joseph, is a child-centred educational facility where children are prepared as life-long learners to meet challenges as compassionate Christian members of our community. The school motto, 'Your Light Guides', describes both the illuminating path to eternal life as shown to us by Jesus Christ as well as the guiding light of knowledge.

RATIONALE – 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 parish community
- By valuing the diversity of all members of our community
- By experiencing and living a Christian life in the Catholic faith.

At St Bernard's the Charism elements of Dignified Relationships, People of Prayer, Active Believers, Heart Mind Spirit at Work, Embrace Challenges, and Stewards of Creation and Community are encouraged. Catholic Identity at St Bernard's requires that Christ is put at the centre of everything it does by integrating Jesus' teachings, the values of the Gospel and the teachings of the Catholic Church into every aspect of learning, teaching and the total experience of school life.

Our Catholic Identity is at the heart of everything that occurs at St Bernard's Catholic Primary School.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Catholic Identity at St Bernard's is developed by:

- Strengthening capacity to lead, engage and teach with a re-contextualised Catholic world-view within the school and community
- Fostering within students a growing understanding of and relationship with God.
- Helping students to understand the Catholic Faith tradition
- Supporting students to develop an active appreciation and involvement in social justice initiatives in the local community and beyond
- Enabling students to participate in the life of the Catholic community through prayer and liturgical celebrations.
- Providing a rich Religious Education program delivering a planned and integrated approach to leadership for mission
- Growing the holistic and inclusive formation of students and staff
- Embedding a contemporary Catholic perspective in identified learning areas
- Sustaining and enhancing authentic contemporary expressions of Catholic Identity by supporting phases of the Leuven Project – profiling and promoting re-contextualisation
- Improving classroom teaching of religion through effective implementation of practice including the monitoring of student progress and enhancing teacher knowledge of the Catholic story.

OUR VISION

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To authentically live out a Catholic Identity at St Bernard's there needs to be commitment to:

- *Dignified Relationships:* As a Catholic education community we believe that the person is at the heart of Christ's teaching. We believe that we are made in the image of God and understand our compassion and kindness most deeply in our relationships with other people.
- *Active Believers:* We are Active Believers in the teachings of Jesus. We see God as forever present to others. We are God to others.
- *Embrace Challenges with Wisdom and Compassion:* Life presents difficulties and our role as a lifelong learning community is to teach and help children develop their own wisdom through kindness and compassion
- *Stewards of Creation and Community:* Following our Catholic tradition as active disciples of Jesus we care for our world and each other with justice and compassion in mind
- *People of Prayer:* As People of Prayer we are called to the presence of God who is our hope and strength.
- *Heart, Mind and Spirit at Work:* As a community we work to open our heart to all people and to celebrate our diversity. We are mindful of anticipating the needs of others, to ensure everyone is included. As people of Spirit we continue St Bernard's devotion to Mary, the Mother of God.

Catholic Identity is integral to every aspect of the School and is not an added component with students being prepared to live in a contemporary society.

OUTCOMES

At St Bernard's Catholic Identity will be fostered through the:

- Religious Life of the school (prayer and assemblies, involvement in the parish celebrations and events, classroom activities, whole school celebrations, social justice/pastoral care/fund-raising)
- Religious Education at the school (teaching and learning activities, teacher accreditation, ongoing renewal, validation of the school R.E. program, and curriculum)

Endorsement

The St Bernard's Catholic School Board, in consultation with the school staff, parent and parish community, endorses this policy. May, 2019.



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"Your Light Guides"