



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

LEARNING AND TEACHING POLICY

Learning and teaching in Catholic schools educates each student to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ as successful, confident and creative, active and informed learners, empowered to shape and enrich our world.

STATEMENT

At St Bernard's students are invited to engage in the mission of the Church in the world through daily active living of the Gospel. Learning is encouraged to be transformative within personal, communal and societal contexts.

Each learner brings richly diverse life experiences, religious, social and cultural backgrounds. St Bernard's offers a relevant, contemporary and engaging curriculum which welcomes and builds on this diversity, recognising that every learner is in some respect like all others, like some others and like no other. St Bernard's assists learners to make meaning in life and learning through the teachings and person of Jesus.

Teachers at St Bernard's strive to create equity and excellence in every classroom to assist students to learn in ways that are personal, relational, communal and enriching. They nurture constructive partnerships with parents and others to optimise conditions for learning within a safe and supportive environment.

Rationale

Church documentation reminds us that the Catholic School's task

is fundamentally a synthesis of culture and faith, and a synthesis of faith and life; the first is reached by integrating all the different aspects of human knowledge through the subjects taught, in the light of the Gospel: the second in the growth of the virtues characteristic of the Christian. (CS n 37)

Within St Bernard's School the cultural and religious dimensions of learning are interrelated. This relationship between contemporary culture and the Catholic Christian tradition can be both harmonious while benefitting from acknowledging differences. Collectively they promote in students the bringing together of culture, faith and life.

Guiding Principles

This approach to learning and teaching fosters coherence and a connected, meaningful understanding of reality. Students are formed and informed in the light of the Catholic Christian tradition. They are taught by knowledgeable, skilful and committed teachers who facilitate quality learning. Students are challenged to become active, engaged and ethical citizens who are lifelong learners.

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.



**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

Learning and teaching at St Bernard's relies on teachers who are:

- Well formed in their vocation as a Christian
- Personal, professional, and religious
- Passionate about teaching and the learning of their students
- Positive and authentic in their disposition towards young people and their families, and
- Continually engaging in reflective and action learning processes to enhance their pedagogy and to enhance the achievement of all students.

Learning and teaching at St Bernard's is informed by:

- The educational vision, mission and policies of Brisbane Catholic Education and St Bernard's School
- The beliefs and values of the BCE Learning and Teaching Framework and Model of Pedagogy
- Contemporary educational research and practices
- The needs and the aspirations of students, their families and the local community
- The knowledge and skills of teachers and others, and
- The requirements of Government educational policies and directions.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

In enacting this policy St Bernard's School community, in partnership with families and the parish community, will promote:

LEARNING characterised by:

- High expectations for the learning progress of each student
- Active engagement of students and teachers
- Students articulating their learning progress and achievement through the implementation of the Learning Powers, for example, how they learn, how they will move forward in their learning and what strategies they use when they don't know what to do in their learning
- Frequent, explicit and effective feedback to move each student forward in their learning
- Learners who own their own learning
- Individual and collaborative approaches to learning
- Reflection and self-direction.

TEACHING characterised by:

- High expectations for the learning progress of each student
- An understanding of each student's learning progress
- Responsive pedagogy that moves each student forward in their learning journey
- Practice that is contemporary, evidence-based and innovative
- Respect for the Catholic Christian tradition
- Explicit, focussed and creative teaching, and
- Collaborative communities and practices of professional learning.

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.



**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

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS characterised by:

- The Catholic Christian identity of St Bernard's
- Conditions which encourage students to challenge themselves with their learning
- Quality facilities and resources which enable contemporary pedagogies
- Aesthetics that encourage prayer, reflection and creativity
- Responsiveness to the diverse needs of students and teachers, and
- A safe, supporting and nurturing educational environment.

COLLABORATION characterised by:

- Strong partnerships between parents, teachers and students
- Key partnerships both within and beyond the school, and
- Interactive and quality engagement with the parish and wider community

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- Benedict XVI, Deus Caritas Est (On Christian Love). (2006) Strathfield NSW, St Paul's Publications, Homebush, NSW.
- Brisbane Catholic Education. (2003). Learning Framework, Brisbane Catholic Education, Brisbane.
- Congregation for Catholic Education. (1977). The Catholic School (Australian Edition). St Paul's Publications, Homebush, NSW.
- Rakoczy, Susan. (1992). Common Journey, Different Paths Spiritual Direction in Cross-Cultural Perspective. Orbis Books, New York.

Endorsement

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

24 April, 2018

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.