

St Patrick's Primary School

Early Years Philosophy

We are a faith-filled community with Christ at our core. We value a strong partnership with our parish community through the Sacraments, pastoral care initiatives, and our Religious Education programs. We believe that God is present in us all by way of our gifts and talents.

We believe children have the right to feel emotionally, physically and socially safe in order to achieve and take risks with their learning. We believe that all children are successful, competent and capable learners and will grow and develop at their own pace. As educators, it is our duty to cater for the different needs, strengths and dispositions of each child, and ensure that all children develop to their full potential and become the best they can be.

At St Patrick's we value and celebrate each member of our school community. Together we share and learn from our diverse backgrounds and cultures. We celebrate all members of our school community and all children are valued. We believe that for us to feel a complete sense of belonging, our diverse backgrounds need to be respected.

We believe that parents are the primary educators of their child's learning. Therefore, we believe that parents should feel heard, respected and included in their child's education. We build partnerships with parents and together we aim to create the most successful journey for every child to develop as a whole person.

We believe it is a child's fundamental right to play. We believe children learn through both planned and spontaneous play, which may take many forms. Play is a common language for children, which helps them experience success and build confidence.

We believe that the foundations for Literacy and Numeracy are of prime importance as they form the basis for all future success and life-long learning. We believe that children develop Literacy and Numeracy through explicit teaching, incidental learning, by capturing teachable moments, and during intentional teaching through play and inquiry.

At St Patrick's—

All children are respected as individuals. Every child's successes and achievements are celebrated, and all children are encouraged to grow and become life-long learners.





What does being a 'faith-filled community with Christ at our core' mean?

- Young children learn best with secure, respectful relationships in a safe environment.
- "God talk" permeates all learning experiences as a natural part of the whole day (*Let the Children Come*, pp.1).



"Childhood is a time to be, to seek and to make meaning of the world,"
(*Early Years Learning Framework*, 2009. pp. 7)



What does 'learn through play' look like in the early years?

- Children exploring ideas, solving problems, making connections and engaging with others.
- Active participation and engagement of children which takes place when they are involved in authentic real-life experiences which are challenging and varied.
- It's fun!

Children who engage in quality play experiences are more likely to have well-developed memory skills, language development, and are able to regulate their behaviour, leading to enhanced school adjustment and academic learning (*Bodrova & Leong*, 2005).

Learning is everywhere!



What does Literacy look like in the early years?

“In the early years, literacy includes a range of modes of communication including music, movement, dance, storytelling, visual arts, media and drama as well as talking, reading and writing.” (*Early Years Learning and Care Position Statement, CEWA, 2018*).

Becoming an emergent reader is facilitated by:

- Engaging, decoding and creating simple texts through play
- Modelling
- Explicit teaching, and
- Planned literacy activities

What does Numeracy look like in the early years?

“In the early years, numeracy includes understandings about mathematical language, thinking and reasoning. Engagement with concrete representation builds understandings about numbers, patterns, measurement and spatial awareness, which support children’s understanding of the mathematical world.” (*Early Years Learning and Care Position Statement, CEWA, 2018*).

Children problem-solving and exploring the world mathematically is enhanced by hands-on activities, such as:

- Puzzles
- Games
- Blocks
- Coding
- Counting
- Cooking
- Measuring
- Building and construction



“Human knowledge is always ‘a truth to be discovered’. Students need encouragement to seek answers to questions that arise as they learn.”

(Bishop’s Mandate, par. 67)

