



LEARNING AND TEACHING POLICY.

RATIONALE:

The Learning and teaching Policy of St Mary's Catholic Primary school has been designed around the Principles of Learning and teaching, as presented by the Victorian Government Blueprint for School Improvement.

At St Mary's Primary School we will enhance student learning outcomes by ensuring that we

- Creatively deploy all staff in order to effectively personalise the learning pathways of our students.
- Creatively use all physical space available to us, including off site to enhance the learning pathways of our students.
- Creatively use all Information and Communication Technologies available to us to enhance the learning pathways of our students.
- Focus our teaching to meet the diverse strengths and needs of our students and staff.
- Strengthen learning communities within our school.
- Develop a culture within our teaching team where we all accept a shared responsibility for the overall learning and welfare needs of all students.
- Build consistent, comprehensive and improving pedagogical approaches within and across our school, while still allowing for flexibility and innovation in classrooms and across all levels of the school.

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT.

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. That is let these things occupy your mind.”

Philippians 4:8-9.

POLICY STATEMENT.

The Victorian Curriculum and contemporary educational practices inform Learning and Teaching at St Mary's Primary School.

In planning for all learning and teaching experiences at St Mary's we are fully cognisant of the relevant stages of learning that apply to students in the primary context.

At St Mary's we have structured our school and created learning spaces that acknowledge the diverse learning strengths and needs of our students.

Learning and Teaching at St Mary's is characterised by the engagement of students in all learning domains. That is, we educate children in the Cognitive, Social, Physical, Artistic, Environmental and Spiritual domains. In doing so we aim to assist our students to become increasingly self responsible, resilient and intrinsically motivated because they have had some choice in determining their own learning pathway.

Children are given choices in regards the learning tasks they undertake and from those choices they find meaningful, learning focussed activities in which they can engage.

We are committed to ensuring that all students are provided with the knowledge and capacity to allow them to effectively 'author their own futures.'

POLICY GUIDELINES

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School we believe that children will best learn when the learning environment is supported and facilitated by creatively deployed teachers and adults alike.

In our school teachers:

- build positive relationships through knowing and valuing each student.
- promote a culture of value and respect for individuals and their communities.
- use strategies that promote students' self-confidence and willingness to take risks with their learning.
- ensure each student experiences success through structured support, the valuing of effort, and recognition of their work.
- Work in such a way that we have shared ownership in the learning pathways, behaviour management and pastoral care of our students.

At St Mary's Catholic Primary School the learning environment promotes the creative use of all physical space available to us to enhance independence, interdependence and self motivation.

Teachers at St Mary's :

- encourage and support students to take responsibility for their learning

- use strategies that build skills of productive collaboration.
- allow and encourage students to work in the learning street /mall, withdrawal rooms, staffroom, on campus or off to enhance their learning opportunities.
- allow for the creative use of all physical space available to us and in doing so allow students to come to know themselves better and learners and people.

At St Mary's Information and Communication Technologies are used to enhance the learning of our students.

Teachers at St Mary's:

- encourage children to access in an independent manner the computers that we have available to us from the various bays situated around our school.
- seek out the most effective programs and / or applications that we can use on our technology to enhance the learning of our students.
- teach specific Information, Communication and Learning Technologies (ICLT) skills to children in small groups to assist them to they feel more comfortable and responsible for their learning.

At St Mary's Primary School students' needs, backgrounds, perspectives and interests are reflected in the learning program.

Teachers at St Mary's :

- use strategies that are flexible and responsive to the values, needs and interests of individual students
- use a range of strategies that support the different ways of thinking and learning
- build on students' prior experiences, knowledge and skills
- capitalise on students' experience of a technology rich world.
- provide opportunities for students to have input into the future direction and form their learning may take.

At St Mary's Primary School students are challenged and supported to develop deep levels of thinking and application.

Teachers at St Mary's:

- plan sequences to promote sustained learning that builds over time and emphasises connections between ideas
- promote substantive discussion of ideas
- emphasise the quality of learning with high expectations of achievement
- use strategies that challenge and support students to question and reflect

- use strategies to develop investigating and problem solving skills
- use strategies to foster imagination and creativity.

At St Mary's Primary School assessment practices are an integral part of teaching and learning.

Teachers therefore :

- design assessment practices that reflect the full range of learning program objectives
- ensure that students receive frequent constructive feedback that supports further learning
- make assessment criteria explicit
- use assessment practices that encourage reflection and self assessment
- use evidence from assessment to inform planning and teaching.

At St Mary's Primary School learning connects strongly with communities and practice beyond the classroom.

Teachers at St Mary's:

- support students to engage with contemporary knowledge and practice
- plan for students to interact with the local and broader community.
- use technologies in ways that reflect professional and community practices.
- encourage students to participate in community projects and take advantage of opportunities to be active citizens.

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