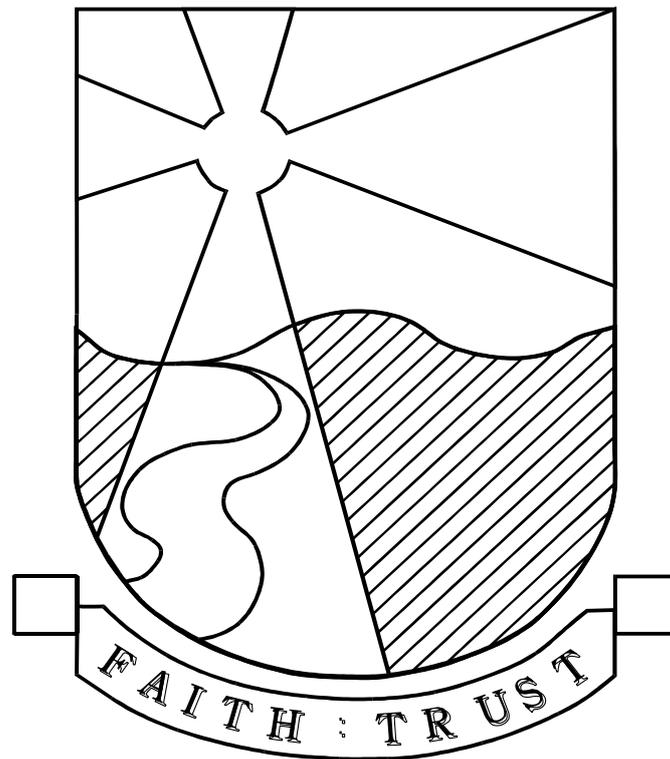


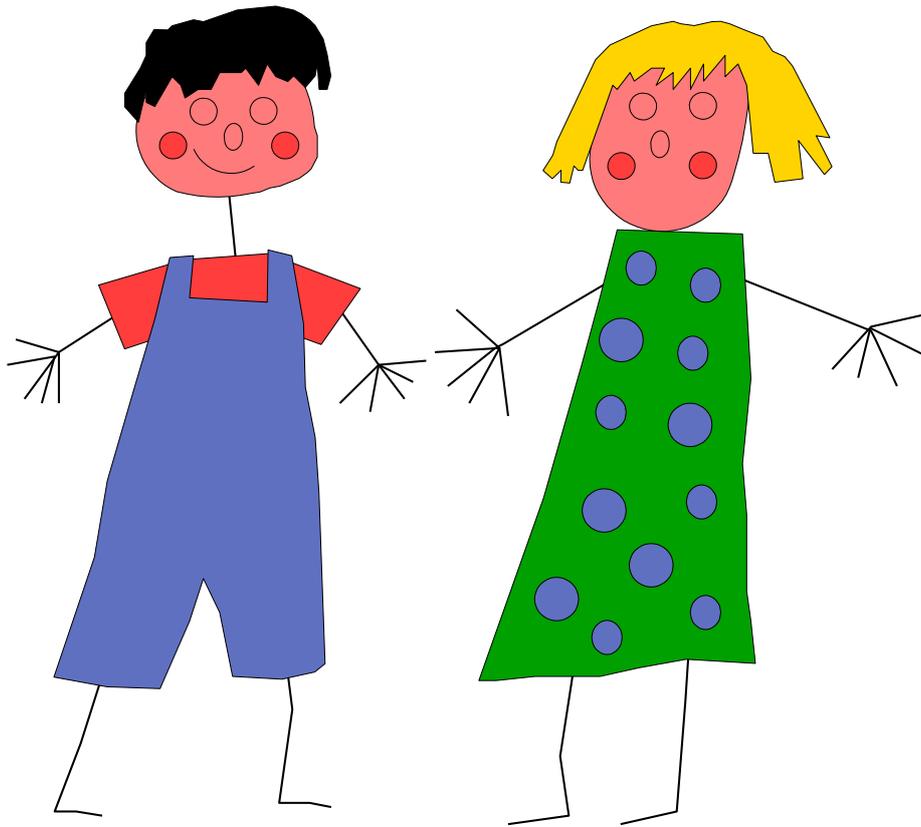
St Joseph's Catholic
Primary School
PINJARRA



EST. 1930

Kindergarten
Handbook
2015





Welcome to St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

We would like to welcome you and your child to our Kindergarten classroom. With your help, we intend making your child's year at St Joseph's a successful and enjoyable one.

We believe that you, the parents, are the prime educators in your child's life, therefore, we encourage the active involvement of parents and families. It is vital that home and school develop a strong partnership to support the children in their learning. Furthermore, we believe that the Kindergarten should provide a happy, Christian environment where parents, students and staff can grow in their awareness of God's love.

Kindergarten is very important in your child's development. The philosophy behind our curriculum is that young children learn best by doing. This active involvement allows children to put into action and practice things they have learnt. The play-based program provides an ideal opportunity for the children to demonstrate and to test their knowledge, skills and understanding in a safe and secure environment.

Success in the early years of schooling depends upon the acquisition of social skills. These skills are taught primarily in the home and are reinforced at school. These skills help your child perform at school in a confident manner. Listed below are some ways you can develop these skills at home.

Independence

- Allow children to put their own fruit, lunchbox and drink bottle in their bags by themselves.
- Encourage children to do up their own shoes and sandals, even if it means waiting a few extra minutes.
- Give your child a simple responsibility around the house. With time, patience and practise your child will develop greater independence. Please remember to keep your expectations realistic, according to your child's age and ability.

Self Control

- In order for children to develop self-control adults need to be firm and consistent with discipline.
- Adults need to set boundaries and limits at home and in school in order for children to understand what is expected of them.
- Children need to be aware of the consequences of their actions, both good and bad, and know that these consequences will be followed through.
- Focus on positive behaviour as much as possible.
- Remember you are a role model to your child. Children do learn behaviours.

Confidence

- Always provide children with encouragement, no matter how small their accomplishment.
- Children (and adults) learn from their mistakes in a supportive environment. Therefore, it is important to allow children to take risks and be comfortable with making mistakes.

Program Goals

The program is designed to be developmental. It takes into account children's prior experiences, strengths and interests and builds on their current levels of understanding. We will allow them to learn at their own pace and in ways that are suited to them. Learning happens best when children are interested, enthusiastic, happy and secure.

The program is designed to develop the whole child - social / emotional, physical, spiritual, creative and intellectual areas. They are inter-related however, strong emphasis is placed on spiritual and social development.

We aim for each child to:

- Develop a loving and meaningful relationship with God, integrating religious education in all areas of learning.
- Develop a positive self-concept, to experience pride and develop a positive attitude towards learning.
- Recognise and express their feelings appropriately.
- Recognise their rights and the rights of others.
- Develop social relationships - to establish friendships and be part of a group.
- Become enthusiastic and independent learners, encouraging them to be active and creative explorers who try new experiences.
- To focus on the process of learning rather than the end product - experimenting, discussing, questioning, problem solving, negotiating, communicating, sorting, classifying.
- To freely express themselves.
- Develop their gross and fine motor skills; feeling confident about what their bodies can do.

Curriculum

The range of learning experiences and opportunities are intended to facilitate the total development of the child.

Australia's first national Early Years Framework for early childhood educators will be utilised. The framework has a specific emphasis on play-based learning, recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy), encourages social and emotional development and allows opportunities for the children to exercise their

choices. The Framework has been designed for use by early childhood educators working in partnership with families, children's first and most influential educators.

These experiences are based around the following learning centres and explicit teaching experiences-

Book Corner
Writing and drawing centre
Modelling
Manipulative materials/puzzles
Painting
Collage
Library
Computer/iPad/Interactive
whiteboard use
Play Dough Table

Blocks
Construction
Outdoor play / Obstacle course
Water Play
Sand Play
Music / Drama / Dance
Home Corner / Dramatic play
Italian
Literacy / Numeracy Rotations
Perceptual Motor Program (PMP)

The learning centres have purpose and develop knowledge and skills associated with the following areas:

Religious Education
Mathematics
English
The Arts - Fine, Music & Drama
Society & Environment

Science
Technology
Health & Physical Education
L.O.T.E : Italian



General Information
Kindergarten Teacher
Teacher Assistants

Mrs Sylvia Faed
Mrs Sue Leader (Mon-Wed)
Mrs Jacqui Slattery (Mon,
Tues)
Mrs Rebecca Hughes (Wed)

Delivery and Collection of Children

Please arrive on time. Children arriving before school begins remain under the supervision of the parent until admitted. A staff member in the undercover area will supervise children who catch a bus to school until 8.30am.

Being on time to collect your child will avoid any distress. Children remain inside the classroom until collected. A staff member or student buddy will escort children who catch a bus, out to the bus line.

If you arrive late to drop off your child, you **MUST** go to the front office and sign your child in. You will be given a Visitor's badge and a yellow sign in card which must be handed to the teacher. Similarly, if you need to pick up your child early for any reason, you must also go to the front office and sign your child out before collecting them.

In cases of emergency, please contact the school so that suitable arrangements can be made for your child. If someone other than a parent is picking up a child, we ask that we be notified. We will not release a child to an unauthorized person or older sibling.

We encourage parents to come into our Kindy. If your child becomes easily distressed due to your leaving please tell the teacher so that the separation from you is smoother and quicker. This may particularly apply to the first term when your child is settling in. Should your child continue to be upset we would contact you.

What to wear

KINDERGARTEN:

Your child is happiest in comfortable clothes that can be easily washed. It is recommended children wear t-shirt / jumper with shorts / tracksuit pants, clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. **Specific Kindy T-Shirts are available at the uniform shop.** Long dresses are lovely but they restrict children's movements. **Please ensure names are placed on all items of clothing to prevent loss.**

A hat is compulsory. Children with no hat will not be permitted to play in the sun. The hat can be left at school in the children's pigeon holes.

Please send your child to school in shoes that he / she can get on and off by him / herself. Dress shoes, crocs and thongs are not recommended, as they are very slippery and restrict children in some class activities.

Long hair must be tied back to avoid the spread of head lice.

What to bring

Everyday-

- A **LARGE** bag (preferably a backpack) *This does not have to be a school backpack, although they are available at the uniform shop.*
- A piece of fruit / vegetable to share with all the children for morning break. Variety is welcomed.
- A healthy lunch - please limit junk food to the occasional treat. Good eating habits will be emphasised consistently throughout the year.
- A **spare change of clothing or two (i.e. underwear, T-Shirt and pants/skirt) in case of accidents eg toileting, water play or other messy activities left in their bag.**



Personal Belongings

Please keep all personal belongings / toys at home to prevent loss or damage. The same applies to jewellery as it can be lost or broken, causing distress to the child.

Tired Children

If your child is tired please keep them at home for a rest. Remember that school is a child's work place and it is hard work, so they need to be well rested. They will not miss out by being home as it is doubtful that they will learn anything if overtired.

Illness and Medication

Please do not bring your child to school with a cold, discharging eyes, head lice, cold sores, rash, fever, or if he / she has had an upset stomach in the past 24 hours. We ask you to notify the school by 9.15am if your child will be absent. (A note is still required when your child returns to school.)

Teachers are not permitted to administer medication until a 'Medication Request' form is completed and returned to the school. Copies are available from the office. Please inform the school of any ongoing illnesses or allergies your child has on the confidential form provided. The school can then set up an emergency plan that will ensure your child's health and safety.

Visitor's Pass

All parents and visitors are required to first attend the administration office to state their intended business at the school. They will then sign in as a visitor and be issued with a visitor's pass that indicates to school staff they have permission to be on school grounds. Before leaving, parents and visitors return to the office to sign out and give back the visitor's pass. (A Visitor's pass is required by a parent who is coming into the classroom for parent help.)

Communication Book

There is a Communication Book in the classroom for parents to sign when alternative arrangements have been made for the collection of their child, i.e. if a child is going home with a friend or if a child is going home on the bus rather than being picked up by a carer. If you can't physically sign the book please telephone the school and leave a message for the class teacher.

Health Visits

- The school community nurse visits the school at regular intervals
- Children will be eligible for free dental treatment.

Allergy Awareness:

Please note that we are a nut friendly school, so please avoid any foods that may contain nuts or nut products. Also we will have a student in the Early Childhood who has an egg allergy, therefore parents are asked not to send egg sandwiches, boiled eggs, quiches or other egg products to school. Cakes and other items where eggs are cooked in the product are safe.

Birthdays and Special Days

Children enjoy celebrating their birthday at school. A parent or relative may like to be on roster to help celebrate their child's special day. The children enjoy sharing a treat (cupcakes/muffins are preferred) with their



class on this special occasion.

Notification of any special days / incursions will be announced in the weekly newsletter.

Parent Involvement

You are always welcome to share in your child's Kindy experience. Children enjoy having their parents and grandparents visiting the class. Rosters will start in Term 1 approx. Week 6 or 7. We do ask that younger siblings not be brought to class when on roster.

Suggested times for parent help:

8.30-9.00am - Cut up fruit for children's morning tea

8.30-10.30am - Parent help for morning activities (indoor and outdoor activities).

While on roster it is important that you interact with your child as well as the other children and to assist with light duties as required. We ask you to provide the confidentiality, support and equal treatment for all children that you would expect for your own child.

Each family will have a turn through out the year to be responsible for a small amount of laundry. The laundry roster runs alphabetically through to the Kindy families. We tell the children that they have "won the washing" which makes the occasion exciting and fun for them.

Please ensure that you read the Kindy whiteboards (located in the waiting area outside our gate and outside the classroom door). Information such as ways you can help your child, relevant articles of interest on children's learning, things to collect and recycle for Kindy. Parent interviews are available on request or will be organised if we have any concerns. Your child's progress and development will be discussed in confidence. It is an expectation that both parents attend this interview, wherever possible.

Money Matters

School fees are to be paid to the school office. All other money eg 'Book Club', fundraisers should be placed in a labelled envelope (students name,

class and purpose for which it is intended) with the correct amount of money securely enclosed and handed to the class teacher.

