



St Joseph's Murgon Religious Education & Faith Formation

Prep to Year 6

Saint Joseph's Murgon is a co-educational parish primary school with classes from Prep to Year Six. While being faithful to its Catholic ethos and traditions, the school accepts enrolments from families who support Catholic Christian values. This includes a number of families who are not Catholic, and others who have no religious affiliation. At St Joseph's, we are committed to the holistic education of our students, and we achieve this through our values of **Nurture** and **Respect**, in a **Faith** based environment.

The St Joseph's Religious Education program aligns with the Brisbane Catholic Education vision for Religious Education and it embraces both the Religious Education Curriculum and Religious Life of the School.

This is done with a particular emphasis on our own individual context by walking in the footsteps of Indigenous spirituality and through our school values of **Nurture**, **Respect** and **Faith**. These values are built upon and infused by the charisms of the Presentation Sisters, Marist Brothers and the Christian Brothers. These values and charisms, together with our connection to Indigenous culture and spirituality, provide a solid foundation for us to foster the faith development of our students. This is further enhanced by the way in which we as a community teach, challenge and transform our students through providing them with opportunities to witness to and live out, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



At St Joseph's, we respect that parents are the first educators of their children and we promote positive partnerships with all parents and members of our community. We strive to provide students with the religious literacy of the Catholic faith, so that they have the skills to communicate confidently in faith contexts. Our faith education seeks to provide opportunities for students to be challenged, be active constructors of knowledge and develop lifelong learning skills. At St Joseph's we respect and are inclusive of the culture and religious connections of all students.

Religion Curriculum



Our religion curriculum is organized into four strands (Sacred Texts, Beliefs, Church and Christian Life), which are interrelated and taught so that our students develop the religious literacy to be confident and effective participants within our faith community and in today's society.

Religious Life of the School



The four components of the Religious Life of the School (Religious Identity and Culture; Evangelisation and Faith Formation; Prayer and Worship; and Social Action and Justice) are integrated into the religion curriculum learning components and are also evident in the way the school community lives the Catholic faith. These components are then subdivided into three elements.



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Religious Identity and Culture

St Joseph's Catholic Primary school has a rich and unique culture and is identifiably Catholic. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School's identity and culture are formed from its Catholic Christian character and accepts the challenge to be a real and living expression of the Church's pastoral mission in the world. Our school has a rich tradition, which is based on the charisms of our three founders; Nano Nagle, Marcellin Champagnat and Edmund Rice. The Spirit of St Joseph's Primary School is underpinned by the values of **Respect, Nurture** and **Faith**.

Evangelisation and Faith Formation

The school is committed to Evangelisation and Faith Formation within the school. The students, staff and community engage positively in spiritual and faith formation. Religious Education and the Religious Life of the School promote a strong sense of prayer and mission in everyday life. This strong emphasis on Religious Education and Religious Life of the School, guides the school's professional development. There is also a very strong and active relationship with the parish and an ongoing commitment to building and sustaining the capacity and commitment of staff to give Christian witness and contribute to the mission of the Church.

Prayer and Worship

Prayer and worship is a central focus of our school community and forms part of the daily life of St Joseph's Catholic School. St Joseph's School is committed to developing the language, tradition and culture of the Catholic religion. We celebrate all significant feast days, church celebrations in the Church's Liturgical Calendar and other community celebrations, with school Masses or Liturgy of the Word celebrations. Students engage in weekly prayer assemblies with a focus on scripture. Classes prepare and lead a Parish Mass each term and Years 3-6 also attend an Anointing Mass each term. Each classroom has a sacred space, which is used daily for class prayer. Sacred icons and imagery are displayed throughout the school, reflecting our Catholic Identity.



Social Action and Justice

Our students actively participate in and critically reflect on social issues and initiatives. Staff and students are supported to actively engage in the Mission and Justice strand of the Religion Curriculum and the Social Action and Justice strand of the Religious Life of the School. Students are engaged in many events throughout the school year, that promote care, concern and justice for those less fortunate than themselves. Each activity raises awareness of world issues, providing students with opportunities to be active participants in resolution initiatives. Examples of these mission activities are Caritas, St Vincent de Paul Appeals, Castra (Southern Cross Care's Retirement Home in Murgon) and the celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture. School Masses and Liturgy of the Word celebrations are infused with values to reflect learning and promotion of social issues. St Joseph's policies and procedures are in place to ensure the needs of marginalised members of our community are supported. The School Fee Policy and School Fee Concession Policy ensure that no member of the community is excluded because of misfortune or disadvantage.

Parish Sacramental Program

Parents are the first and most important educators of their children (Declaration on Christian Education, 1968, Vatican II) and it is within the faith development of family and home that children come to a deeper realisation and practice of their faith. St Joseph's supports the Parish in the Christian Initiation of Children (Sacramental Policy of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, 2015).