ST. STEPHEN’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL
PITTSWORTH
Sacramental Preparation Support

Policy

Rationale
St Stephen’s Primary School, as part of the local faith community, exists to support the parents/guardians’ role as the primary educators of their children. The Sacramental Preparation Support Policy gives expression to an understanding of, and the need for, co-operation between the family, parish and school in preparing children for the initial reception of Sacraments.

Values
The St Stephen's Primary School Sacramental Preparation Support Policy gives expression to the values of responsibility, discipleship and justice.

Policy Statement
St Stephen's Primary School will support the family and the parish community’s efforts in the preparation of its students for the initial reception of the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Eucharist.

Actions
As a result of this policy.

- Faith is primarily nurtured in the home
- Sacraments are celebrated within the context of the local church community
- Parents are supported in their role as the primary educators of the child

RESPECT
At St Stephen’s Catholic School we believe that every person should feel a sense of worth and be valued as a member of the community. Respect is demonstrated through appreciation, acceptance and celebration of differences, pride in one’s own behaviour and pride in our school. We believe that all members of the community should work together towards a common goal while being courteous and considerate of each other.

Jesus said, "In as much as you have done it to the least of my brothers, you have done it to me" [Matt 25:40].

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES
Creating Opportunities at St Stephen’s Catholic School means leadership, pride and motivation. It is allowing students and staff the opportunities to succeed through a positive and nurturing environment [Colossians 4:4-6]. It is giving everyone the responsibility for and ownership of their work and their environment. Through this members will increase their personal growth and in turn their self-esteem allowing them success in everyday opportunities [1 Samuel 18:14].
The faith life of the parish community is enriched
The faith and talents of community members are drawn upon
Children are supported by many people in their faith journey
The school, as an integral part of the parish, supports the efforts of the Church
Families are encouraged to take responsibility for the Sacramental preparation of their children
Parents have the choice of deciding the child’s readiness to receive the Sacraments.

Guidelines
- The school co-operates with the Parish priest and/or Sacramental Co-ordinator regarding arrangements for Sacramental Preparation
- The school supports the parish by implementing a sequential Religious Education program incorporating Sacraments with the emphasis on the knowledge component
- The school offers resource support for the Parish Sacramental Co-ordinator, parents and/or group leader
- The school offers practical support in the provision of meeting areas and secretarial assistance if required
- The school heightens awareness of the existence of the Sacramental Preparation Programme and encourages practical and prayerful support from the school community
- The school acknowledges this important aspect in the lives of its students and provides meaningful recognition

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