Community

Rationale
As a school community we believe there are four main areas that will ensure the success of the school; School Organisation & Management, Building Equipment and Finance, Curriculum and Faith Education and Community. Strong relationships are integral in maintaining St Joseph’s Childers ability to provide authentic Catholic Education in the Isis Community.

Values
Gospel values are intrinsic to Catholic Education and therefore be evident in all we do at St Joseph’s. The way we relate to each other at the school, “St Joseph’s Way” should be Christ’s message in action and enliven our community. We also recognise and respect the work and mission of the Sisters of St Joseph who founded the school and also acknowledge the rich history of Childers community who built and maintained the school for over 80 years. These factors make St Joseph’s School in Childers a unique Catholic community. The emphasis on Gospel values and our history will obviously impact on all decisions concerning the purposes, content, teaching/learning experiences, evaluation processes and structures which form elements of the curriculum in our school. The following values have had a major influence in assisting the community in the development of this policy.

Dignity: All persons are created equal and human dignity is inviolable and valued. Our educational efforts should confirm the belief that everyone is unique and valued, that individual distinctions enrich and enliven our world and that the individual has both rights and responsibilities.

Inclusion: The Oxford dictionary defines Catholic as all-embracing. Being a Catholic school we welcome and support all who accept the values of the Catholic Church and its teachings.

Spirituality: We recognise that spirituality and our relationship with God is an important part of our lives. In offering a holistic education we endeavour to give students opportunities to develop their own connections with God as part of their lifelong journey to understanding.

Love: Teachers educate by what we say, more what they do, even more by who they are, but most of all by what they love. ‘Love’ here is interpreted as ‘concern’ for. It is this concern that expresses itself in the many attempts that teachers are making to develop curriculum appropriate to the needs of their pupils.

Communion: An integral quality of the Catholic Church is fostering a sense of communion. We at St Joseph’s develop this through fostering pastoral and interpersonal relationships between school, family and the wider community.

Compassion: Mercy is a God-given ability to have compassion for those suffering and to discover ways of meeting their needs.
**Justice:** A special responsibility of Catholic education is to educate for justice. Such an education, if it is to be credible, must take place within an environment which witnesses a commitment to justice and service. The responsibility for creating this environment rests with all in the education community, but it rests in a special way on those who make decisions and create policies for that community.

**Trust/Openness:** We enhance personal self-concept by showing God’s concern for each of us and by showing that adults also care for the community members. We need to recognise and reinforce growth, openness and personal accomplishments.

**Respect/Celebration of Diversity:** Respect is the basis of any relationship. Everyone – parents, pupils, and staff have a contribution to make. It is the job of the school to recognise individual contributions in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance.

**Honest/Integrity:** The Catholic school should be a Christian educational community where human knowledge and truth, enlightened by faith, are valued by teachers and students.

**Forgiveness:** To be forgiving, children must experience their own need for forgiveness, being forgiven, an empathy with themselves and with others, and adults who can balance legalism with forgiveness and compassion.

**Shared Wisdom:** Catholic educators make use of a ‘shared wisdom’ in arriving at decisions and attempt to locate decision making at the lowest appropriate level.

**Policy Statement**

*At St Joseph’s School we recognise the diverse nature of the people and strive to develop a dynamic faith community that is true and faithful to the traditions of the Catholic Church yet inclusive of all members. We will actively work to build community, acknowledging the dignity of each person, by celebrating diversity and showing respect and all. The need to be loved and to love and the compassion that naturally follows is the basis of all our endeavours.*

**Consequences**

Guidelines and procedures will be developed for the following:

- **STUDENT SUPPORT**
  - Students with disability
  - Cultural diversity
  - Student well being & pastoral care
- **STAFF SUPPORT**
  - Professional learning community
  - Staff engagement/ participation
  - Professional practice
- **PARTNERSHIPS & RELATIONSHIPS**
  - Relationships with parents & local community
  - partnerships
• ICLT
  o Learning & teaching
  o Leadership & management
  o resourcing

Framework Procedures