

OUR VISION

St Patrick's Parish School is:

A School With Altitude!

This not only has meaning geographically but it suits us in terms of our beliefs about learning and life.

We see our school as a School with Altitude. A school that looks forward, a school where we can hold our heads high... Where we can be proud and confident in ourselves and in each other. Obviously high academic standards are a feature of any great school and yes, we set high standards in this regard. But...there are other qualities that are just as important if we are to describe ourselves as a school of excellence and quality.

A School with Altitude has students and teachers who believe that anything is possible...that students can and will scale new heights of success. Our school is a school where students and teachers know they can take risks and learn in new and exciting ways.

We are an inclusive school where relationships and a strong sense of community are central to learning and being. We are a school where students not only develop their unique gifts but are also genuinely affirmed and respected by others.

We are a school where students and teachers are passionate about teaching and learning. A school with altitude has a strong sense that God is with us... around us ... always walking with us.

A School with Altitude believes that learning is a process where commitment and persistence count. Students are not only learning the skills to inquire, research, process, interpret and present information. They are taught to really think about the information that they work with. Our Christian values are integral to the what, why and how we learn. A school with altitude leads students to make good choices about life and to always live life to the best of their ability.

Our Learning Beliefs

At St Patrick's we believe...

1 Learning should provide *MEANING AND PURPOSE*.

'Connected' learning means that the learning experience should start from what students know and understand and then connect to or transfer to new learnings.

Cross curriculum connections should be encouraged.

Hands on or concrete experiences provide meaning and purpose.

2 Learning in an *INQUIRY APPROACH* is valued.

Students are encouraged to question, research, take risks, make mistakes. All are seen as valid and positive ways of learning.

3 Learning should involve and develop *COMMUNICATION SKILLS*

Students are encouraged to use different communication styles for a range of purposes, audiences and contexts.

This includes oral, written and multi-media communication.

4 Learning can take place in *TEAMS OR IN COLLABORATION* with others.

Students develop skills to work in partnerships, small and large groups allowing them to develop an openness to others' viewpoints, ideas and opinions. This promotes a shared responsibility for learning.

5 Learning can promote *INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-RESPONSIBILITY*.

Students are encouraged to recognise their own learning styles and to be open to accessing different ways of knowing. Reflective practice and critical and creative thinking are skills to develop. Students are encouraged to manage and organise their own learning and to make responsible choices.

5 Learning is *VALUES BASED*.

A lifelong love of and searching for learning is promoted and students are encouraged to operate as principled, ethical human beings displaying Christian values such as: respect, fairness, courtesy, compassion and kindness. Skills in resilience, initiative, flexibility, adaptability, imagination, persistence, confidence and enterprise are developed. Students are asked to look beyond self – a global view!