



## **St Mary's Early Childhood Philosophy**

At the centre of St Mary's School Early Childhood Philosophy is the importance of an environment that welcomes and inspires all children. We hope to instil a love of learning and create a safe and happy learning environment. Our school philosophy reflects the Early Years Learning Framework, the Western Australian Kindergarten and Pre-Primary Curriculum.

Each child is an important part of the family structure. As educators we strive to develop a partnership between school, child, and family. Family input within the school is welcomed and parental involvement in the day to day activities is encouraged.

### **Faith**

The St Mary's School community strongly believe in the importance of laying the foundational blocks in which children learn about Gospel values and the Catholic ethos. Through our Religious Education lessons, we emphasise that God has made each of us special, and that we should love and respect who we and who others are. We reinforce these values by example and encourage the children to live these values both at school and home.

### **Respect**

At St Mary's School, we want young learners to feel at ease when taking risks. They will be encouraged to test different structures, theories, and ideas. They are encouraged to use social skills as they discuss, plan, and work collaboratively to solve problems. These skills are encouraged across all learning and investigative play situations.

### **Challenge**

St Mary's School implements a play-based learning environment. We provide a well-planned program, giving children the spontaneity to investigate, gather and process information. Children are respected and encouraged to share and talk about their new learning. Play is productive, offering wonderful imagery for children and the opportunities for them to learn from each other. We believe this supports learning and development, having long-lasting effects on their future well-being and learning.

### **Teamwork**

The active learning process that we encourage is built around the children's development, and appropriate to their needs, interests, and methods of learning. All children are accepted, valued, and respected. Programmes are built upon ideas presented by a child or a group of children. Children are given opportunities to make choices and decisions within the acceptable limits of early childhood learning. At all times, initiative and independence is encouraged within an atmosphere of trust and structured freedom. St Mary's School endeavours to encourage children to construct their own knowledge and understanding by learning at their own pace.

*Faith - Respect – Challenge - Teamwork*