



Kindness, Honesty, Respect

**Parents
and
Caregivers Charter**

INTRODUCTION

Parents play a crucial role in the education and social development of their children. At St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School we recognise that parents are the primary educators and care givers of their children. We acknowledge and support the valuable role all parents play in this regard and appreciate the involvement of each and every parent in many diverse ways throughout the school.

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School has a dedicated body of parents who get involved with many aspects of school life. Through our partnership with our students' parents, we have attained a very high standard of education and civic responsibility in our students. This is something valued highly in our community.

We know a child learns behaviours and values from the example their parents/caregivers, teachers and peers display.

Parents can reduce incidents by being good role models and helping create a positive environment in which their son/daughter can be valued.

Our school vision states,

We, the Community of St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School, recognise Christ as our guide and companion.

We are committed to building a supportive learning environment, that inspires all individuals to strive continually to achieve their personal best.

We seek to instil a love of learning and we believe that modelling the qualities of honesty, kindness and respect will assist the achievement of this vision.

The following is a guide to how parents can support us in our endeavours to fulfil this vision of education at our school and bring out the best in their children while they are at St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School.

KINDNESS

At St Bernadette's we encourage all members of our community to act with kindness. Smiling, greeting each other when passing and helping others in need are all ways of showing kindness.

There will be times when you have concerns or queries about things that are happening in the school or the classroom. This is natural. What is important is that we always speak to each other with kindness even when we may disagree or have a challenging issue to discuss.

As parents we can show kindness by:

- Being courteous in the car park and following rules when delivering and collecting children from school;
- Avoiding inappropriate discussions that are negative about a third party;
- Showing acceptance and understanding towards others;
- Promoting the culture of helping out and the satisfaction of being involved and achieving.

HONESTY

At St Bernadette's we encourage all members of our community to act with honesty. Speaking the truth and ensuring we have all points of view regarding any issues are how we show honesty.

Teachers are extremely approachable and more than happy to engage in conversation about any concerns you might have. Making an appointment to see a teacher is crucial. In the mornings teachers are preparing for the day and are not available to conduct interviews at this time, particularly unscheduled interviews. By making an appointment via the Interview Request Form the teacher can be fully prepared for the interview and the best outcomes can be achieved.

All of us make mistakes from time to time. Having the ability to admit this and offer an apology is not a sign of weakness or frailty; it is a sign of strength, integrity and honesty.

Speaking about issues with other members of the school community either in person or on social media is counterproductive and not an appropriate way to seek honest solutions.

As parents we can display honesty by:

- Encouraging children to use problem-solving channels at school – peers, teachers, social worker and administrative staff;
- Taking responsibility for our own actions and encouraging children to do the same;
- Making appointments to see teachers when we have concerns.

RESPECT

All members of our school community have the right to feel safe and valued. Speaking or acting in an inappropriate or aggressive manner towards students, parents or a teacher is unacceptable. As adults we need to model calmness and respect to the children and keep our emotions in check.

Parents are the primary educators of their children and schools acknowledge and respect this. No one knows your child better than you and your input is vital in your child's education.

Teachers are trained and skilled professionals who have tertiary qualifications in their chosen field. They have knowledge and expertise with strong theoretical bases developed over a period of time. Parents need to respect this expertise and trust that teachers have the best interests of their child in mind when making decisions.

As parents we model respect by:

- Using appropriate communication channels when dealing with the school and with teachers;
- Respecting instruction time by ensuring our children are at school on time;
- Assist in classrooms where possible without divulging any observations or information about any children – even to their parents;
- Treating all school property with care;
- Familiarising ourselves and our children with school and community rules, the policy pertaining to them, and adhering to them;
- Respecting the sign-in policy and adhering to it.

A COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING BEST POTENTIAL

As parents we can support our children in learning and encourage them to be their best by being good role models. It is our actions that really count when influencing our children.

We can, for example:

- Share our knowledge and experiences with our children;
- Read for enjoyment ourselves and to our children;
- Encourage the development of enquiring minds in our children;
- Ensuring our children are equipped to learn by providing the appropriate items as per the class lists;

- Ensuring children are well rested and nourished when they arrive at school;
- Ensuring we provide our children with healthy, nourishing food at school;
- Take an interest in our child's work by providing a time and a place that promotes the completion of homework;
- Maintain regular contact with teachers via notes, communication diaries and email – especially to inform of major changes at home;
- Make every effort to be involved with Sports Days, Open Nights, Assemblies and other major events at school.

SOCIAL AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

As parents we can show we care about our school community by getting involved. For example, we can:

- Attend P&F meetings;
- Volunteer to help with school activities (School masses, Busy Bee's, Fundraising and Sporting events);
- Volunteer as a class helper;
- Provide positive and constructive feedback to the school;
- Promote the benefits of our school in the wider community;
- Offer to assist with extra-curricular activities (choir, coaching, camps, etc).

Contact Us

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School
252 Grand Ocean Blvd
Port Kennedy 6172
Western Australia

Phone +61 8 9593 4066
Fax +61 8 9593 6596
Email admin@stbernadettes.wa.edu.au
Website www.stbernadettes.wa.edu.au