



Outside School Hours Care Philosophy

We believe our environment offers:

- *Engagement of the child in meaningful real-life experiences as well as encouraging them to effectively participate in our rapidly changing and globalised world.*
- *The children engage in context that provide for learning about justice, peace and ecological sustainability.*
- *Opportunities for learners to be actively involved in gathering and processing information about their environment.*
- *Supportive and respectful contexts where everyone's ideas and misconceptions are challenged.*

We believe children:

- *Possess a natural curiosity and wonder about their world and their God.*
- *Are all able and competent.*
- *Engage with their world through a diversity of learning styles.*
- *Are unique.*
- *Are part of a wider cultural community.*
- *Bring prior knowledge and past experiences to every learning experience to construct meaning.*
- *Have the right to access an education that provides them with the necessary knowledge and skills to participate fully in their world.*



We believe that in our relationship with families:

- *Educators should engage in meaningful partnerships.*
- *That sharing in open communication with parents and carers, allows us to gain an insight into the child as a learner.*
- *It is important to strengthen connections with families through regular conferencing and interactions.*
- *We value the contributions of families as it facilitates in the building of partnerships and community.*

As a community of learners, we:

- *Establish cultures where we learn from one another.*
- *Collaboratively make decisions – shared wisdom approach.*
- *Provide professional support to one another.*
- *Seek out latest developments and research with regard to early childhood education.*

In relationships with community, we believe in:

- *A culture of community where all members' contributions are valued.*
- *Deeper understanding and relationship building with the extended community.*
- *Involving community members in decision-making therefore providing multiple perspectives and insight.*
- *An essential connection with the diocese, parish and school.*

Therefore we see our role as educators, to:

- *Respect the integrity of every child and family.*
- *Form positive relationships with children and their families.*
- *Acknowledge and partake in inclusive practices that are responsive to the diversity of learners.*
- *Offer a multiplicity of rigorous experiences that challenge and inspire the learner.*
- *Provide well-informed learning practices that are reviewed regularly to ensure relevance*
- *Build positive and meaningful relationships with every child and family.*
- *Allow time to wonder and build a relationship with God.*
- *Nurture the innate spirituality of all those who are members of our service community.*
- *Ensure the wellbeing and holistic development of the child.*
- *Co-create playspaces where the contributions of children are given priority.*
- *Encourage learners to express their ideas, ask questions and offer responses.*
- *Actively respond to those contributions.*
- *Respect every child's history, culture and community.*
- *Provide continuity and routine.*
- *Provide an extensive range of teaching and learning principles where children are challenged and supported to deepen their understandings.*
- *Ensure safe and ethical practices are in place.*
- *Model and engage in reflection with children.*
- *Commit to ongoing critical analysis of practice and professional development.*

