

# Early Childhood Statement of Philosophy

A graphic consisting of several blue lines radiating from a central point, resembling a sunburst or a star.

Shine  
*through*  
Discovery

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE MATTHEW 5:16



Challenge — Collaborate — Create — Celebrate

# Early Childhood Statement of Philosophy

Newman College is a Catholic school educating in the Marist tradition. We strive to animate our delivery of learning, teaching and wellbeing, as one which is innovative and creative, underpinned by contemporary and relevant pedagogy.

Our Vision for Learning 'Shine through Discovery - Let your light shine (Matthew 5:16) inspires our faith and learning community to Challenge, Collaborate, Create and Celebrate who we are and what we seek to achieve.

Our Early Childhood Statement of Philosophy strives to reflect how our College's pedagogical pillars are enacted within the context of our Pre-Kindergarten to Year 2 educational setting. It is a fluid and living document that changes as new insights are gained and practices are evaluated.



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE  
MATTHEW 5:16



# Challenge—

## WE BELIEVE:

- In a whole school wellbeing policy that develops children's social and emotional skills.
- In promoting a culture of excellence amongst staff and students.
- Teaching and learning should be student driven regardless of ability.
- That data should inform the way in which we challenge all students, so that an appropriate learning journey can be developed for each student.
- Students need frequent and varied opportunities to practice and consolidate their literacy and numeracy skills.
- That teachers should challenge themselves to critically evaluate and continuously improve their practice through self-evaluation, with a commitment to research and implement innovative theories and pedagogies.
- Students should receive timely, targeted and formative feedback to promote growth.
- Children are successful, capable and resourceful learners who can actively and confidently contribute to their own learning.
- High expectations allow students to strive towards goals and reach their full potential.

## WE ENDEAVOUR TO:

- Provide learning opportunities utilising both indoor and outdoor learning environments, ensuring we are responsive to individual interests and needs.
- Offer educational environments that are flexible and contemporary, and invite students to engage in open-ended interactions, discovery, exploration and shared thinking.
- Provide equitable learning opportunities through an educational program that is diverse and caters to student's wide variety of learning styles and abilities.
- Promote each student's self-worth and independence, building an inclusive culture of belonging and success.
- Differentiate learning experiences to meet individual student needs.
- Utilise ongoing assessment data to inform our teaching and learning programs.
- Encourage students to examine and understand sustainability and engage in ongoing sustainable practices.
- Encourage a growth mindset with our students to support each of them reaching their learning potential.



# Collaborate—

## WE BELIEVE:

- Students learn best in an environment where they can interact with and experience the curriculum.
- Teachers should create learning environments that maximise student interactions through discussion, collaboration and feedback.
- Effective collaboration is frequent, ongoing and embedded in daily class routines.
- Positive learning outcomes are most likely to be achieved when early childhood educators work in partnership with families.
- That families are children's first and most influential teachers.
- A strong and connected College community supports optimal learning outcomes.

## WE ENDEAVOUR TO:

- Establish positive working relationships between students, parents, families and communities.
- Acknowledge families as the first educators of students.
- Make learning visible and meaningful to families, enabling them to be active participants in their child's educational journey.
- Share the educational experiences and expertise of teachers in open interactions to ensure collaborative growth and development.
- Collaborate with specialist staff to further enhance the holistic development of students.
- Utilise flexible learning spaces to facilitate learning that is social and interactive.
- Develop student's self-reflection skills through the establishment of personal learning goals in collaboration with teaching staff.
- Create regular engagement opportunities for the involvement and presence of families and the broader community.
- Critically reflect at an individual and team level, on our educational philosophies and practice.



# Create—

## **WE BELIEVE:**

- In fostering innovation and creativity through contemporary and relevant teaching practice.
- In a school where students can 'Shine through Discovery'.
- The development of critical and creative thinking in our students is paramount in forming successful, lifelong, adaptable learners.
- Critical reflection allows students to challenge their assumptions and beliefs, encouraging them to adapt to the world around them with confidence.
- A growth mindset allows students to encounter the realities of today's modern world.

## **WE ENDEAVOUR TO:**

- Create welcoming, safe and inviting learning environments where personal spaces, as well as shared spaces optimise individual learning needs.
- Create a diverse variety of oral language learning opportunities in recognition of its importance in early childhood literacy development.
- Place value on social responsibility by providing nature-based play experiences for students to connect with and contribute to the world around them.
- Respond to children's interests and opinions, and place value on the contribution of children's agency to the learning environment.
- Develop student's skills and knowledge through learning processes that include educational manipulatives, real world experiences and engaging social opportunities.
- Utilise an inquiry-based learning model that fosters the individuals love of learning.
- Promote a culture of collegiality and mutual respect amongst early learning staff, where each staff members contributions are valued and supported.
- Undertake fair and equitable methods of diagnostic, formative and summative assessment tasks for students, which enables students to regularly demonstrate their knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways.
- Promote sustainable practices within the College through meaningful, real-world experiences.
- Integrate the creative use of digital technology into our teaching and learning programs.





# Celebrate—

## WE BELIEVE:

- That we shine through a celebration of faith, achievements, contributions and efforts.
- In encouraging a sense of belonging, group coherence and purpose.
- In acknowledging our Aboriginal ancestors as our nation's First Peoples and bringing these perspectives and knowledge to our students learning experiences.
- Diversity amongst students, staff and families enables the celebration of our uniqueness.
- In fostering student's confidence and self-esteem to achieve personal growth.
- That celebrating achievements encourages intrinsic motivation to develop attributes of tenacity and perseverance.
- That students engaged in their learning will develop strong self-esteem and motivation, key drivers to enhanced achievement.
- Assessment should be child-centred, varied and authentic to enable the celebration of each child's individual strengths and achievements.

## WE ENDEAVOUR TO:

- Celebrate each student as a unique and precious child of God.
- Promote the development of the whole child and celebrate diversity.
- Embed Aboriginal culture in our educational programs to promote an understanding of the history of Australia's First Peoples and the value that they bring to our collective history.
- Demonstrate and integrate our Christian faith, through Catholic practices in our Marist charism.
- Acknowledge the varied expertise that the staff in our College community bring to the learning experiences of our students.
- Engage in critical reflection of our pedagogical practices whilst constantly adjusting our learning, assessment and planning processes to best meet the learning needs of our students.
- Promote the diverse nature of our community and the integration of various faiths, cultures, and families.





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