SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

St Joseph’s School is a member of the Community. This Community encompasses not only the School and Parish, but also the wider area. As such, staff and students interact with the community at many different levels. As well as education, this can involve community service, arts, sports, the acquisition of goods and services, work experience, volunteer work and financial assistance. In all cases such interaction is part of the public relations, reputation and image building of the School.

RATIONALE

MISSION STATEMENT

“St Joseph’s School offers a holistic education within a Catholic Christian ethos whilst developing and valuing the uniqueness of the individual as we encourage each student to become a life long learner.”

The mission statement of St Joseph’s School stresses a holistic education, a goal that can only be provided by learning within a broad context. The School heavily relies on the Community to achieve this. The awareness that learning occurs in the real world encourages students to become life long learners.

It is not possible for the School to offer a holistic approach without support of and interaction with the wider Community, in all aspects of the school’s life.

GOSPEL VALUES

Respect, personal dignity, individual worth, freedom, integrity, trust, justice, understanding, forgiveness, honesty, care, compassion

DEFINITIONS

Community Relations is defined as the interaction with the broader Community to promote and enhance the operations of the School.

POLICY STATEMENT

As a school, St. Joseph’s needs to be aware of the perception portrayed within the broader community. St. Joseph’s as a significant contributor to the local economy needs to maintain an awareness of the loyalty that is displayed to it by many businesses within the local district. St Joseph’s, as a school wishes to support those who support it. This applies to all areas of involvement within the wider community including the purchase of goods and services.
CONSEQUENCES

In the matter of the acquisition of goods and services, a data base of School supporters is maintained and this serves as the initial preferred supplier list.

Staff and School members who are responsible for acquiring goods and services must seek wherever possible to utilize the services of the community and particularly the supporters of the School.

It is acknowledged that the School does operate on a limited budget and must seek to use its resources wisely. Those who are supporters and have traditionally supplied goods and services to the School will have the opportunity to continue.

Decisions on the acquisition of goods and services will include an analysis of costs, quality and availability, whilst bearing in mind St Joseph’s position in the overall context of the Community.

Where for financial reasons a commercial decision is made to acquire goods and services from outside the community, this is to be documented and approved by the Principal.

Bob Knight                                         Dan Manahan
Principal                                         Board Chairman

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