



## **Annesley Early Learning Centre**

### **POLICY STATEMENT ON RELATIONSHIPS**

As a school within the Uniting Church, we believe that all relationships within our community should be based on mutual respect and trust. This manifests itself as:

- Respect for feelings, property, rights and opinions
- Respect for the individual's right to develop own talents and abilities
- Respect for community, both our own and the wider community
- Respect for the environment, both natural and constructed

We believe that learning occurs best when we manage ourselves and consider others. Further, we believe that:

- Students come to school to learn
- Teachers come to school to teach so that students will learn
- Parents send their children to school to learn
- Responsible behaviour enables learning both for the individual and the group

Beyond these central beliefs, students are expected to:

- Recognise the right of others to share an environment free from harassment
- Follow the guidelines on the school's Anti Harassment Policy
- Identify the differences between responsible and irresponsible behaviour
- Behave responsibly

Beyond these central beliefs, members of staff are expected to:

- Ensure that all students are aware of their rights and responsibilities
- Implement the school's Anti Harassment and Behaviour Education Policies consistently
- Assist students to develop responsible behaviour

Beyond these central beliefs, parents are expected to:

- Familiarise themselves with and support the school's Anti Harassment and Behaviour Education Policies
- Assist their children to interact in a socially and academically responsible manner

Given this framework, we undertake that:

- We will recognise and respond to appropriate behaviour
- There will be consequences for students' inappropriate behaviour

## **Relationships with Children**

Children in the Early Learning Centre are encouraged to be and are provided with many opportunities to express their opinions and to contribute to their environment through planned and spontaneous experiences. We view the ELC as a community of learners within the Annesley Junior School Community. We the staff are role models, we encourage and expect the children to conduct themselves in a respectful and polite manner so that each member will feel valued and welcomed. Each ELC program develops an Essential Agreement which reflects the understandings and desires of the children in that age group as to how they wish to be treated and how in return they will treat others.

- Each morning the children gather with their staff for the Morning Meeting. This is a time when each person can contribute to the unit of inquiry and discuss the provocations presented by the staff. Staff model socially appropriate behaviour and encourage the children to listen and contribute in a manner that is respectful and productive.
- During the afternoon the children participate in a Reflection Circle to reflect on the days experiences, share successes and celebrate individual and group achievements. The children are encouraged to share with their peers observations they have made or experiences they appreciated with the support of a peer during their day together.
- At all times the dignity and rights of the child are maintained in accordance with the *Declaration of the Rights of the Child*.
- Positive guidance and encouragement is given to support acceptable behaviour.
- At times of conflict the children will be encouraged to identify behaviours that are inappropriate and will be encouraged to make positive choices to change the behaviour.
- At all times the children will be treated with respect, compassion and dignity so that trust and a sense of agency can develop.
- At all times the children in the Centre will be cared for in a safe and appropriate manner.

## **Relationships with Families**

Working with our families is the development of a partnership. Each member of the partnership wants to create the best outcomes for the child/ren. Through positive interactions, open communication and collaborative plans to support the child's development the families and the staff can enjoy a positive working relationship.