



ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF SPECIAL

RELIGIOUS CHARACTER

St John's Catholic School is part of the community of Catholic schools in the Diocese of Rockhampton. Our mission is lived under the umbrella of the Diocesan vision statement:

As a community of believers, we live out the call of Baptism through personal faith in Jesus, witnessing together to the Good News of the Kingdom.

Strong links are maintained with the parish community of St John's through regular communication with the parish priest and parish sacraments team in particular, and through participation in school and parish liturgies and other celebrations.

As a school community we strive to give witness to the defining features of a Catholic school in our diocese as we journey together seeking 'Meaning for Life':

- to give witness to the message of Jesus and the mission of the church
- to have a clear Catholic identity
- to be communities of care
- to offer a relevant and holistic curriculum of quality teaching and learning
- to be open and accessible to all who seek our values
- to be characterised by inclusive partnerships within a community of faith

Our vision for the staff, students and parents of St John's is to ***"Strive to be a community filled with faith, joy, vitality and optimism who pursue excellence in teaching and learning"***.

The Sisters of Mercy established St John's in 1923 as a parish school to educate the children living in Walkerston and in the predominantly Maltese farming community surrounding it. Soon after that, the Sisters added boarding facilities also, to cater for children further 'up the valley'. The boarding facility continued until the end of 1976. A Sister of Mercy filled the position of Principal until 1981 and the first lay principal was appointed the following year. The sisters retained a presence in the school until 1989, and one Sister continued to live in the convent until 1996.

The Sisters of Mercy charism comes to them through their founder, Catherine McAuley, an Irish woman born in 1778 in Dublin who called on her Sisters of Mercy to not just **talk** about love and compassion, but to **do** something about helping other people in need. Education became one of the key ministries of the Sisters, and very many Australians thank the Sisters of Mercy for their education.

At St John's we strive to continue the Mercy tradition of service, excellence, compassion and justice in action. With St John as our patron saint, we are called to follow his example and to live out our school motto: ***Love one another as I have loved you.*** Our school Mission Statement also challenges us to:

- live our gospel Values
- bring Jesus' message of love to each child
- recognise and develop the gifts and talents of each child
- as a community, help each child grow to their full potential

St John's is committed to the education of the whole child and each student is challenged to reach their full potential in all areas of development. We offer to children from Prep to Year 6 excellence in education based on Christian values in a family atmosphere.

