

## **St Theresa's Primary School, Albion** **Teaching And Learning Styles**

We believe that all children have the ability to learn given sufficient time and support and acknowledge that children learn at different rates. We believe that it is an individual process that should begin from the children's experiences, which are then built upon in an attempt to make meaningful connections. We also believe that children have preferred learning styles that need to be catered for. For the child to experience success is paramount to learning and to developing self-esteem, independence and confidence. It is important that learning be challenging and rewarding.

What we teach comes from a combination of the following:

- Prescriptive Key Learning Areas from the Curriculum Standard Frameworks
- Content and processes.
- Communication skills.
- Christian values and Catholic faith.
- Self worth.
- Life skills.
- Problem solving strategies.
- Computer education.
- Skills and strategies that enable the child to take some control of their own learning.
- Planning to balance the learning styles used.

St. Theresa's provides a learning environment whereby many are involved in the teaching process. The teachers primarily facilitate formal teaching, but this is done in partnership with student peer groups, parents, Father Barry Hughes and experts in the wider community with the inclusion of incursions and excursions where relevant.

Our curriculum is a deliberate and planned developmental approach that allows for connections to be made by the child. We believe it important that our curriculum include:

- Opportunities for co-operative learning.
- A reflection of the awareness of the cultural backgrounds of our children.
- Gender awareness.
- A structure that provides the opportunity for children to reflect on their learning and to draw conclusions.
- A beginning point from where the children are.
- The opportunity for children to learn in their own preferred learning style at some stage along the way.
- A range of teaching strategies.

At St. Theresa's, our curriculum is supported by the following:

- Team planning approach.
- An endeavour to have a shared understanding of terminology.
- A planned approach to unit topic selection to ensure that all the Key Learning Areas are well represented in the child's primary education. We also plan for a shift in the KLA focus each term.
- Common unit planning sheets.
- Willingness to try new ideas.
- Creative approach to timetabling.
- Small groups of children; class sizes and small group work.
- Our record keeping and Assessment & Reporting procedures.
- Professional Development with a focus on literacy for prep-3.
- Communication between staff across all levels.
- Supporting and affirming each other as a staff.
- Shared responsibility of the children in our care.
- Valuing of the arts in our curriculum with the provision of specialist teachers.
- An open door approach to parents in the school and the conscious effort to involve parents in the education of their children.
- Clear and consistent documentation of work completed.
- An awareness of the CSF2 documents as a tool for auditing and planning.
- LOTE and library being inclusive in our curriculum planning.
- Formal structures.