

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022



Dear Parents and Caretakers

As a staff we have been working through the RULER program and are looking forward to implementing it with our students next year. RULER is a social and emotional learning program that challenges us to think differently about students and their behaviours. RULER also challenges us to think differently about ourselves and the occurrences and situations that trigger negative emotions in us. Emotions drive our learning, decision-making, creativity, relationships, and health so it is vital that we understand our emotions and are aware how they may impact the way we deal with students.

All children go through a process of learning what is socially acceptable. Throughout this learning process, students make mistakes and conflicts arise in their relationships. It is important that as adults we understand this and don't label students as naughty, rather we need to be prepared to look deeper into the behaviour and try to understand what is causing it. All behaviour is trying to tell us something. For some students they may make one mistakes and correct themselves, others may need more opportunities and for the adults around them to be patient.

At St Mary's we have some exceptional students, and our behaviour plans and processes must be reflective of the goals which we have for them. Whilst it can be easy to get caught up on what happened at recess, on this day, during this week, we are focussed on one thing and that is graduating confident, compassionate, and capable members of society who are willing to go out in the world and lead with their head, their heart and their hands. Our goals are big picture, and it is over years of learning, mistakes, conversations and building of positive relationships that we believe we can achieve this.

We cannot, however, do this alone. Parents are the first educators, and it is so important that the values of forgiveness, courage, respect, compassion, service, justice, excellence, and determination that we teach at school are aligned at home. To support this, we have developed a behaviour process that is reflective of our beliefs, allows for easy communication with parents, allows for us to identify patterns of behaviour and allows students an opportunity to reflect on their mistakes and learn from their consequences.

It is important to understand that all children make mistakes. We have the best opportunity of supporting our students to grow if we work together. It is your job to advocate for your children and share their perspective, however, please understand that children often tell their parents the version of the truth that gets them in the least amount of trouble and as a school it is our responsibility to support all the individual perspectives in working alongside and respecting each other.

The following behaviour plan outlines how we are going to manage behaviour occurrences in the school. Please read the documents and contact the office if you have any queries or concerns.

Kind regards

Andrew Gammon