

FAMILY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT

Policy Statement

Guardian Angels' School affirms God's presence in all people. As a result, we acknowledge our sacred and relational nature and commit ourselves to developing a community which releases energy in love and trust.

We aim to be a supportive, caring community, encouraging, and challenging each other to fullness of life in Christ.

Our Core Values

Our faith and learning is empowered and celebrated through living our core school values.

1. **Belonging:** We embrace and connect with our community; nurturing and accepting each person for who they are.
2. **Excellence:** We have high expectations for ourselves and others; using our gifts to strive for our personal best.
3. **Courage:** We challenge ourselves to persevere, take action and try new things.
4. **Respect:** We show care and love for God, ourselves, others and our surroundings.
5. **Hope:** We are guided by our faith; enabling us to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Section A: Context

Purpose

The purpose of this statement is to describe Guardian Angels' Primary School's approach to partnering with families in the education of students.

For the purposes of this document, 'family' reflects the diverse arrangements that constitute a family in contemporary Australia and acknowledges all adults who provide ongoing care and support for children and young people. This includes parents in both dual and single parent families, carers, legal guardians, foster carers, grandparents, kinship arrangements and extended families.

This statement reflects the role of family in their child's upbringing and includes the interaction processes that contribute to the child's emotional and social development.

Families engage in partnerships with their child's school, BCE, and Guardian Angels' parish to improve learning for their children, regardless of their race/ethnicity, education background, gender, disability or socioeconomic status, as:

- supporters who engage with their children's learning and development.
- encouragers of a positive self-image, and a 'can do' spirit in their children.
- monitors of their children's time, behaviour, boundaries, and resources

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School Mission and Vision

We aim to be an exemplary Catholic learning community united in living the Gospel.

In achieving this Vision, we will experience:

- **Relationships** which are inclusive, mutually respectful and based on trust
- **Learning** which is dynamic, interactive and purposeful and
- A **culture** which is hope-filled, courageous and caring through organisational structures which are efficient, helpful and which enable participants to achieve their purposes.

Our School Context

Guardian Angels' Primary School is a co-educational Catholic primary school (Prep –Year 6). We are an inclusive school community where staff, parents and students work collaboratively to develop a cohesive approach to education. The school is operated under the direction of the Brisbane Catholic Education and is seen as an integral part of the Guardian Angels' community.

Consultation and Review Process

This Family-School Partnership Statement was developed by the School Board in consultation with the School Leadership Team and reflects relevant Guardian Angels' Primary School and Brisbane Catholic education policies and resources.

Our Beliefs and Common Philosophy about partnering with families

We believe that the partnership between schools and families assists our school to provide the optimal environment for every child so that they can flourish and be the person God intended them to be.

Families play a significant role in supporting their children's wellbeing and learning, guiding their children successfully through school processes, and advocating for their children and for the effectiveness of schools.

Guardian Angels' considers family engagement as families and staff- working together to support and improve the learning, development, and wellbeing of children.

Family engagement in schools is a shared responsibility in which schools and other community agencies and organizations are committed to reaching out to engage families in meaningful ways, and families are committed to actively supporting their children's learning and development.

The relationship between schools and family supports and reinforces children's wellbeing and learning in multiple settings—at home, school, out-of-school programs, and the community. Guardian Angels' is aware that:

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- Family is one of the most important influences on a child's education. When families are engaged in children's education, children are more likely to attend school and to perform better.
- Family engagement is simply the attitudes, values and behaviours that positively influence children's education outcomes.
- they have a role in encouraging and supporting families to ensure children to get the most out of their schooling, from their first day onwards.
- The earlier families become engaged, the better it is for the children.

Our School's Approach

Our school provides a continuum of support for your children. We focus on attendance, learning, behaviour support, wellbeing, and equitable outcomes for all.

All staff at Guardian Angels' Primary School work to build a sense of community and belonging. Guardian Angels' Team are all visible and committed to nurturing active partnerships with families. The Guardian Angels' community responds to the current needs within the community.

Professional Learning for Families

Guardian Angels' Primary School provides opportunities reflective of school community needs to strengthen family capacity such as:

- Cyber Safety Presentations
- Triple P Parenting Program
- 1,2,3 Magic
- "Reading With Your Child" Information
- NAPLAN Online Parent Sessions

This list is reviewed annually and aligns with school priorities in consultation with P&F & GA School Board.

Community Expectations

Community expectations promote the school's Catholic identity, encourage consistent communications, and establish a common language of expectations for all staff, students and families across all settings.

We appreciate at times that families and the school will have to work through complex issues. In these cases, we would enter that dialogue while maintaining respect and understanding from both parties.

Our school wide expectation is that, **"There is an 'I' in Behaviour"**,

- Show **Respect**: I show respect
- Be **Responsible**: I am responsible
- Act **Safely**: I act safely

The [Positive Behaviour 4 Learning \(PB4L\)](#) framework underpins the school's approach to positive behaviour support. It promotes the school's Catholic Identity and provides consistency across the staff and school community.

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Section B: Our Family-School Partnership Statement

Recognising the role of the family

Guardian Angels' Primary School celebrates its diverse community and recognises the integral role families play as partners in their children's education and as essential members of the Guardian Angels' community.

Relationships within a school exist between students, teachers, family, carers, guardians, extended family, the parish and the broader community.

We recognise the family as primary educators of their children. We believe that in order to maximise students' learning and wellbeing outcomes, there must be a meaningful and authentic relationship between families and the school.

Home and school are partners in providing a place for contemporary learning in a positive environment conducive to personal, spiritual and intellectual growth and wellbeing.

KEY THINGS PARENTS CAN DO:

- Have high expectations for your children
- Talk about school at home in positive way
- Help your children develop a positive attitude towards learning and good habits
- Read together
- Bring children to school ready to learn – plenty of sleep, well fed and on time

The [Family - School Partnerships Framework](#) identifies the Principles which underpin effective engagement in student learning;

1. *All families and schools want the best for their children*
2. *All children have the right to the opportunity to reach their full potential*
3. *Families are the first and continuing educators of their children*
4. *Effective schools provide a nurturing and supportive learning environment*
5. *Families and schools value quality teaching and respect teachers' professional expertise*
6. *Families and schools value the diversity of families and use this as a resource for building partnerships and communities*
7. *Family-school partnerships are based on mutual responsibility, respect and trust*
8. *Leadership is critical to building, maintaining and renewing partnerships*
9. *Family-school partnerships improve student motivation and learning*
10. *Family-school partnerships strengthen the connections between schools and their communities*
11. *Partnerships can involve all organisations that support families and schools*

Communication

Effective communication between schools, families and the community form the foundation for developing and maintaining partnerships. Guardian Angels' Primary School encourages communication in any form that is clear, timely and mutually respectful.

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Guardian Angels' Primary School uses communication mediums including emails, regular newsletters (school, curriculum and class), parent portal, school website, SMS and social media (Facebook and Twitter).

There are always opportunities for family-teacher consultation and dialogue as well as Parent Information Evenings and Parent/Teacher Interviews. School staff and the Leadership Team are present and engaged with families daily. School tours are conducted when required to establish early communication with prospective families.

There are social events throughout the year that families are welcome to attend and/or volunteer.

A reminder that social media is a powerful tool.

When posting on social media, parents and carers need to be mindful that any comments recognising the Guardian Angels' community align to our school's core values.

Connecting learning at home and school

Learning at home and at school can be connected by ensuring the school and families:

- have a shared understanding of the highly valued partnership between home and school.
- have shared high expectations.
- utilise learning opportunities in the home and the school environment.

Guardian Angels' Primary School aims to connect learning at home and school by ensuring effective implementation of the school Homework Policy.

[Homework Policy and Procedures \(guardianangelswynnum.qld.edu.au\)](http://guardianangelswynnum.qld.edu.au)

Consultative decision-making

Consultative decision-making emphasises the importance of consulting families in decisions concerning their own children. This creates a shared sense of responsibility amongst families and schools.

As primary educators of their children, families have the right and are actively encouraged to contribute to the life of the school through consultation, participation, and active listening.

Building community and Catholic identity

Community and identity can be built by focusing on activities that shape the children's sense of identity and culture, such as creating opportunities for families to meet and engage.

Families are encouraged to attend and participate in significant events.

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Collaborating beyond the school

Collaborating beyond the school can be achieved by identifying and integrating resources within the wider community to strengthen and support children, families, and the school.

Guardian Angels' collaborates with the wider community to support children during transitions in their education.

Volunteering

Guardian Angels' supports and encourages families to be involved through volunteerism in our community.

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Document Information

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Policy Author	School Board
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