



1.3 Aims & Objectives

Purpose

John Street aims to provide a service which aligns with the *National Quality Standard for Education and Care Services for Children (NQS)*.

In this policy, we outline our Goals, Aims and Objectives for ensuring alignment with the NQS.

Goals

Our goals are that:

- John Street’s Educational program and practice is stimulating and engaging, and enhances children’s learning and development
- John Street safeguards and promotes children’s health and safety
- The physical environment at John Street is safe, suitable and provides a rich and diverse range of experiences that promote children’s learning and development
- The qualified and experienced staff at John Street develop warm, respectful relationships with children, create safe and predictable environments, and encourage children’s active engagement in the learning program
- Relationships with children at John Street are responsive and respectful, and promote children’s sense of security and belonging
- John Street promotes the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from LGBTQIA, those from linguistically, and/or diverse backgrounds, and the safety of children with a disability
- Collaborative relationships with families at John Street are promoted as fundamental to achieving quality outcomes for children
- John Street’s community partnerships are based on active communication, consultation and collaboration
- John Street’s effective leadership and management contributes to the quality environments for children’s learning and development
- John Street functions as a learning community through well documented policies and procedures, well maintained records, shared values, clear direction and reflective practices

- John Street engages families in an ongoing cycle of planning and review to create a climate for continuous improvement.

Aims

- To provide care, education and development opportunities for young children in the local community.
- To provide an excellent children's program in a creative and supportive environment.
- To provide the care and support services needed by families bringing up children in contemporary society.
- To meet the changing needs of the community and uphold community values.
- To ensure the provision of best practice in childcare through continual access to staff training and development.
- To provide opportunities for children, families, staff and the community to develop secure, respectful and reciprocal relationships through positive interactions and respect for diversity.
- To provide a child-safe education and care environment where the rights of the child are paramount, and children are protected from harm as outlined in articles 19 and 34 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989*.

Objectives

For the children at John Street to:

- Have a strong sense of identity
- Connect with and contribute to their world
- Have a strong sense of wellbeing
- Become confident and involved learners
- Become effective communicators
- Fulfil their potential
- Develop a genuine love of learning
- Feel free to learn and be happy at John Street
- Care for and support others
- Have freedom to follow their own interests and ideas, at the same time respecting the rights of others
- Express and cope with feelings appropriate to their own level of development

- Develop a belief and confidence in themselves and their abilities (self-esteem and self-respect)
- Learn to adapt to a constantly changing world
- Develop physically, intellectually and emotionally
- Develop independence and autonomy in their actions, thinking and feelings
- Value and care for all living things and their environment
- Be protected from abuse at all times

For the families at John Street to:

- Feel welcome at John Street at any time
- Be an integral part of the John Street program
- Be supported in their parenting role
- Have their values and beliefs about child-rearing respected
- Value the role of educators and engage in shared decision-making
- Contribute to John Street via working bees and other activities
- Participate in and enrich the program in ways they are comfortable with
- Share their knowledge and skills with children and staff.

For the educators at John Street to:

- Take an holistic approach to teaching and learning, recognising the interconnectedness of mind, body and spirit, focusing on connections to the natural world
- Engage in intentional teaching that is deliberate, purposeful and thoughtful
- Communicate openly and honestly with one another
- Work as a team in an atmosphere of cooperation and concern for the rights, views and feelings of others
- Develop to their full potential as individuals and professionals
- Be fulfilled and happy in their work
- Be self-reflective in order to critically evaluate their own performance and gain deeper self-awareness
- Interact with and evaluate other staff based on genuine and open communication
- Provide a model to children and adults that is caring, genuine, and supportive

- Create relationships with families and others built on mutual respect and support
- Work with other professionals as necessary and appropriate, and assist families, children, and other staff.
- Be alive to the risk of child abuse at all times, and to know what steps to take in the event of suspicions of abuse

For the community to:

- Recognise and value John Street as a resource
- Collaborate with John Street to enhance children's learning and wellbeing
- Experience a relationship with John Street through children's participation in the community, strengthening children's interests and skills in being and becoming active contributors to their work
- Promote child-friendly communities with the potential for learning in everyday events
- Reflect a cultural diversity that provides a balanced view of contemporary Australia
- Influence each families wellbeing (and capacity) to nurture and support their own children.

Sources

Raising Children's Network, *Child Development : the first five years*
http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/child_development.html/context/422

General Assembly, *Declaration of the Rights of the Child*, 20 November 1959, available at:
<http://www.cirp.org/library/ethics/UN-declaration/> [accessed 10 July 2014]

Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (2009) *The National Quality Standard for Education and Care and School Age Care*, Canberra, Commonwealth of Australia.

Authorisation

This policy was approved by the John Street Board in July 2018.