

## Philosophy, Vision and Values

### School Overview

The Jennings Street School is a prep – year 12 autism specific school located at Laverton. The school is adjacent to the Laverton P-12 College campus providing potential opportunities as the school develops for shared educational programming and use of facilities. Jennings Street School commenced in 2015 with a population of 40 students aged 9 – 12 and has grown to its capacity of 120 through a phased enrolment process across all schooling age levels. The school population is drawn from a designated zone within the South Western Metropolitan Region.

### Philosophy

Jennings Street School will provide a safe, stimulating, flexible and challenging high quality learning and teaching environment employing current research as it applies to the education of children and young people with an ASD. Jennings Street School will be organised around 3 stages of learning, primary, middle and later years of schooling, with The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) to be offered in the later years for eligible students. The curriculum framework will incorporate the teaching of core skills essential to the development of appropriate and effective social and communication interactions. Learning growth of students is charted using the Victorian Curriculum. Community participation and contribution, and the development of pro-social skills, will be core components of the curriculum and programming in the school. Student pathways planning will be an important component across the year levels but particularly in the senior school program. The facilities and centres of learning which are spacious and bright will meet the needs of the 21st century learner. There will be a strong focus on student well-being and building effective home school partnerships. The school aims to maximise:

- Participation and retention
- Academic success based on personalised learning
- Life skills, and
- Community engagement and involvement

Jennings Street School strives to develop strong, active partnerships with the local community by working closely with other local schools, the local government and community, to collaboratively develop and share resources and facilities and equip students to participate in their local community and live in society.

### Values

In order to promote life-long learning and to equip students with essential life skills the Jennings Street School embraces the following values which will be affirmed by the school's leadership team:

- **Learning:** to facilitate high quality teaching and learning programs based on current research and consistent with Departmental policy and curriculum frameworks.
- **Respect:** to build a school culture based on respect for all school community members
- **Safety:** to embed policies and processes that ensure safe practices are known and consistently implemented across the school.

## Pedagogical Statement

Jennings Street School provides:

- A curriculum that is developed to suit the individual student focusing on a functional curriculum and accessing the Victorian Curriculum.
- A teaching approach that enhances the students self esteem and respects their dignity.
- An emphasis on each student's development of communication, social skills, and independent living skills.
- Behaviour support interventions tailored to each student's needs which incorporates the School Wide Positive Behaviour Supports.
- Enhanced opportunities for learning through engagement in the wider community.

Jennings Street School offers

- Differentiated teaching employing flexible learning spaces.
- Promotion of successful learning and self-esteem building on students strengths.
- Integrated, multidisciplinary service provision embedded into learning team support structures.
- Staff capacity building opportunities by embedding priority professional learning within structured Professional Learning Team forums.
- Department Education & Training, transport to and from home within a designated area.

## EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed every three years or more often if necessary due to changes in regulations or circumstances.

Date Implemented	2016
Author	Rosemary Hayes
Approved By	Jennings Street School Council
Approval Authority (Signature & Date)	
Date Reviewed	March 2018
Responsible for Review	Policy sub Committee of School Council
Review Date	March 2021
References	

xx.xx.2016 – v0 – date of implementation

15.03.2017 – v1 – under pedagogical statement in dot point 4 replace management with support; update evaluation box.

14.03.2018 – v2 – updated content in the school overview and philosophy sections; updated Values replacing collaboration with safety; updated and corrected errors in footer; updated evaluation box.