Introduction: St Joseph’s Parish Primary School was established by members of this community to provide for the educational and faith needs of the children of Parish families. The primary purpose of our school is to nurture and educate the whole child through and by the principles, values and traditions of the Catholic community of faith. This is done by recognising the relationship between the Catholic school and the Parish community and with due reference to Archdiocesan policy. The following guidelines are the policy of the Parish Pastoral Council in prioritising enrolment applications.

Rationale:

Guidelines for Implementation:

1. The child is a baptised Catholic whose family can demonstrate involvement in the life, worship and service of the Parish with a preference for those who have siblings already enrolled.

2. The child is a baptised Catholic whose family resides in the Parish and whose family is committed to and guided by the values of the Gospel and the traditions of the Catholic Church.

3. The child is a baptised Catholic whose family can demonstrate involvement in the life, worship and service of a Parish other than this Parish and has appropriate reasons for not enrolling the child in their own Parish school.

4. The child, though not baptised as a Catholic, belongs to a family that can demonstrate some meaningful relationship with a Christian tradition and is committed to and guided by the values of the Gospel and accepting of the traditions of the Catholic community.

5. The child, though not baptised in any recognised Christian faith, who together with the family agrees to fully participate in all facets of the Parish school life, including the Religious Education program and the liturgical and prayer life of the school.

The Principal, in consultation with the Parish Priest and the Parish Pastoral Council may exercise discretion regarding any application and may determine a child’s eligibility beyond the stated guidelines.

Other:

Section 15 of the Education General Provisions Regulation 2006 allows but does not oblige the School Principal to accept an application for early entry to the Prep Year for a child who:
Either

- will be at least 5 years and 5 months on 31 December in the proposed year of attendance at school (i.e. a child who turns 5 on or before 31 July); AND
- is considered by the School Principal ready for education in the year of schooling considering the child’s attributes;

Or

- had started education in another State or country that is equivalent to the Prep Year; AND
- is considered by the School Principal to be ready for education in the year of schooling considering the child’s attributes.

The child’s attributes to be considered may include but are not limited to, aptitude and ability, social and emotional competence, physical development and level of knowledge and understanding.

- Parents must clearly state their agreement of the enrolment guidelines under which they intend to apply for enrolment.
- Children with special needs will be considered in accordance with the Brisbane Catholic Education procedures; Enrolment Support Process.
- Each application for enrolment must be accompanied by:
  - Documentary evidence of birth
  - Documentary evidence of current immunisation status
  - Documentary evidence of Baptism
  - Evidence to verify demonstrated commitment and/or involvement in their particular faith community
  - A copy of the latest school report card if the child has already attended another school.
  - If applicable, a copy of any court order verifying legal custody and/or access.

- A $85 application fee is payable on submitting all applications.
- On acceptance of an enrolment a non-refundable confirmation offer fee of $300 ($200 for current families) is payable to confirm the position.

Early Entry to Prep

- On receiving an Application for Early Entry to Prep, the final decision as to whether or not a child meets the requirements for early entry to Prep rests with the School Principal in respect of all matters, including, without limitation whether, in the opinion of the School Principal, the child is considered ready for education.
- The Principal shall determine from time to time the process they will use to inform their decision. In making the decision, the Principal may consider evidence provided by the parent to support the application and may discuss the child’s attributes with relevant school staff as well as external providers of education or other social, welfare or medical services to the child.
- Applications for Early Entry to Prep will be considered subject to vacancies which may exist after all other applications have been considered.

Consequences:

1. Parents are expected to accept a sincere commitment to give the child every opportunity to experience the fullness of their faith, to provide every opportunity and encouragement to practice it and fully support the school in its mission to foster the child’s growth to “full stature in Christ”.
2. Parents are expected to support and encourage the living out of the Gospel values and the standards of behaviour that these imply.
3. Parents are expected to accept and support all school policies and procedures which have been formulated for the efficient management of the school and the safety and welfare of children and visitors.
4. Parents are expected to commit themselves to the payment of school fees and charges as determined by the Parish Pastoral Council. Where there are difficulties in meeting this requirement, contact should be made in the first instance with the School Principal, who will in turn determine such action as deemed to be necessary in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council.

Should there be any concerns regarding the above information, contact should be made in the first instances with the School Principal. All school policy is the responsibility of the duly appointed School Board who may as it deems necessary alter any of the above conditions and policies in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council.