

Early Learning and Care Fact Sheet: 7 Relationships with Community



Catholic Education
Diocese of Rockhampton

St. Joseph's OSHC is managed (for and on behalf of the Corporation of Trustees of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockhampton) by the Nominated Supervisor or delegated person and Approved Provider (Director: Catholic Education, Diocese of Rockhampton).

Our service has been providing care to families in the local community since 1997. We recognise the connection between children, families and communities and the importance of partnership and relationships. We see learning as a social activity and value community participation.

We will endeavour to participate in community-related activities within our regional area, use local services and facilities wherever possible (e.g. shops, museums, etc.), invite involvement from local service providers (e.g. community workers, medical specialists, school personnel) and participate in local community events (e.g. fundraising) where appropriate. We encourage feedback and comment from local stakeholders through our School Board and endeavour to act on community input to improve the quality of the service we offer.

Staff are encouraged to network within the school community and to seek out information from peak bodies, experts and authorities to support their service delivery.

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Every service has an established advisory committee to provide advice, guidance and support in relation to local issues. In Catholic Education - Diocese of Rockhampton, this advisory role has been administered to the service's associated School Board.

The School Board meet monthly (or as directed by the principal/Director and Board members) and provides opportunities for key stakeholders to provide valuable feedback on the operation of the service.

"Experiencing belonging – knowing where and with whom you belong – is integral to human existence. Children belong first to a family, a cultural group, a neighbourhood and a wider community. Belonging acknowledges children's interdependence with others and the basis of relationships in defining identities. In childhood, and throughout life, relationships are crucial to a sense of belonging."

Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace (2009), *Belonging, Being & Becoming The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia*, p.7.