Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children

Scriptural Context:

St Mary’s Primary School endorses Catholic beliefs and practices and is committed to the protection of children in our care. As a faith community, we nurture and watch over each person in keeping with the gospel values lived by Jesus Christ.

“I have come that you may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10

“Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and your right hand delivers me.” Psalm 138:7

Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children

The staff and volunteers of St Mary’s Primary School encourage students to express their views. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all students to openly express their views and feel comfortable about giving voice to the things that are important to them.

We teach students about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns students, or their parents or carers, raise with us.

Students participate in a number of programs and frameworks to support them in understanding their rights in regards to safety and how to seek help if they need to. Teachers provide learning in this area through Bounce Back! (social emotional learning program), our Religious Education curriculum and involvement in the Life Education program. We also provide opportunities for students as a KidsMatter school and our commitment to a Pastoral Care worker. This area is also supported by our Pastoral Care Policy and restorative practices approach.