



### **Ways we Work Together at St Emilie's**

- We listen with empathy
- We share responsibility
- We collaborate respectfully
- We address problems constructively
- We defer judgment
- We keep an open mind
- We celebrate diversity and difference
- We assume and act with positive intent
- We use constructive language
- We share ethically
- We are trustworthy and act with integrity
- We are generous with time and talent
- We create opportunities to enjoy working together
- **We keep the child at the centre**
- We are propelled into action by Gospel values and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

#### **Dear Parents,**

In single stream schools the matter of a parent request to move a child from one class to another is not an issue because children go through the school from Kindy to Year 6 with the same peers and the teacher they are allocated to.

In double stream schools some parents make enquiries about whether their child can be in a particular class the following year. Typically, the request is in response to the presence of a particular child, or to a certain teacher, and may involve, for example, a friendship fallout, or in the case of a teacher, perhaps a preference for the way a particular teacher engages students or manages student behaviour, as compared to another.

This note is to reaffirm that we continue to be thoroughly committed to working both **pastorally and professionally** through any issues that are communicated to us by students, parents or staff.

When it comes to a parent request for their child to be in a particular teacher's class, or to be separated from another child, it is important to understand that the reason presented would need to be **most compelling**. Parents must also understand that while the request will be considered, it may not necessarily result in a change being made. Any requests must also be made in writing to the Principal, by the advertised cut off date early in Term 4.

**The reason for our position in regard to this matter is because:**

- the expectation of each and every teacher across our school is very high in regard to providing for your child's physical, spiritual, emotional, social and learning needs
- we work hard to align our teaching practice and this is an ongoing and sustained effort
- we work closely as a whole school team and as cluster teams to support children and their learning
- we communicate well and often regarding children's needs – especially across partner year levels
- each teacher we employ brings something special to a child's experience over time. All our staff here at St Emilie's are dedicated, and hardworking and they genuinely want the very best for every child.
- we believe that with teacher support, children gain valuable life lessons from working through conflict situations, friendship challenges and dealing with different personality types.

While we spend time creating class lists for the next year and take a number of factors into account, **there is an underlying belief** that in the final analysis, **each child will be well catered for, no matter which teacher, or what they make up of the class**. When allocating children to classes, time, care, discussion and discernment go into the process by staff and by the leadership team.

You can be assured that we work very hard to ensure that **the classroom environment, the quality of the learning tasks and our attention to building respectful and fruitful relationships continue to be aligned, and the best that they can be**.

We hope this letter provides greater clarity and we thank you for your ongoing support

Regards

Tania Thuijs

**Principal**

Stuart Munro

**Assistant Principal**