



## SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY POLICY

Jacana School for Autism is committed to child safety. As a community we want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all children as well as our families, staff and volunteers. There is **zero tolerance of child abuse**, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures. We are committed to providing a safe environment for children with a disability, as well as ensuring the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Jacana School for Autism believes that every child, irrespective of their ability level, can and will learn in an environment of dignity and respect. It is the role of the school and its community to build on a child's strengths and talents to ensure that each child reaches their full potential. The school aims to develop the capacity of students to contribute to, and participate in all aspects of community life in a positive way. Students will develop a wide range of skills to enable them to live successful lives as independently as possible.

The outcomes of the consultative process are encapsulated within the school values: **Respect, Empathy and Inclusion**. These core values are imbedded in all school policies and practices. At the centre of the school's values are the expectations that with the support of the staff, all students be ready for learning, respect themselves and others, act safely and care for their school. These expectations are supported by positive partnerships with all members of the school, school council and the wider community to ensure optimal educational and social outcomes.

### SCHOOL VISION

Jacana School for Autism fosters resilience and independence, enabling students to be engaged participants in community life.

### PURPOSE

The school continually implements highly customised teaching and learning programs to ensure all students access an inclusive curriculum using evidence informed practice in a safe and supportive environment. Students are supported by a committed professional multi-disciplinary team, focussed on recognising and developing individual personal and educational potential.

### PEDAGOGICAL PHILOSOPHY

Jacana School for Autism believes that to succeed in the world, students need to develop the capacity to:

- Manage themselves as individuals and in their relations to others.
- Understand the world in which they live and act effectively in their wider community.

Jacana School for Autism provides:

- A curriculum that supports the individual needs of students, using specific teaching strategies that cater to students on the Autism Spectrum.
- Personalised Learning Plans to cater for specific learning needs and styles, focusing on communication, social /interpersonal skills, personal learning and academic skills.
- A safe and secure environment that enhances students' self-esteem and respects students' dignity.

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- School wide implementation of the Positive Behaviour Support program.
- Regular participation in the wider community.

Jacana School for Autism includes:

- Individual and small group instruction.
- Speech therapy consultation
- Occupational therapy consultation
- Psychology consultation
- Ongoing professional development for staff
- Programs that are informed by current research and evidence based practice

**The school philosophy will be enacted through the Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO)**

- Student Achievement, Engagement and Wellbeing
- Excellence in Teaching and Learning
- Community Engagement in Learning
- Professional Leadership
- Positive Climate for Learning

**Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the three year policy review cycle.

<b>Ratified By JSA School Council:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
<b>Review Date:</b>	Term 3, 2023