



# ALGESTER PRIMARY SCHOOL

## EARLY YEARS PHILOSOPHY

*To develop life-long learners, Algester Primary School provides a developmentally appropriate learning program which nurtures independence, self-esteem and success within a stimulating and supportive environment.*

### ENVIRONMENT

We believe that children learn best when the environment:

- has an atmosphere where children feel safe, a sense of belonging and security
- provides areas for children to engage in individual, small and whole group learning experiences that may be child and/or adult initiated
- is structured around collaborative and professional partnerships
- has responsive and flexible routines and transitions
- is well maintained with resources and equipment
- has high quality verbal interactions
- is language and print rich
- is digitally advanced for the 21<sup>st</sup> century learner.

### CURRICULUM

We believe that children learn best when the curriculum:

- is built on a foundation of age appropriate pedagogies
- incorporates integrated learning experiences that are authentic and life-like
- is developmentally appropriate and aligned to the Australian Curriculum
- provides opportunities for spontaneous and planned learning experiences that support age-appropriate risk taking, trial and error and challenge
- supports individual differences (learning styles, range of abilities, interests, cultural backgrounds)
- includes the interaction of a wide range of people and resources
- is flexible, stimulating, meaningful and fun.

### PARENTS AND CARERS

We believe that children learn best when parents and caregivers:

- are active partners in learning
- are meeting the needs of the child emotionally and physically
- communicate regularly with the school
- have the opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills in relation to their child's education.

### CHILDREN

We believe that children learn best when they:

- feel secure, successful, and experience the love for learning
- are engaged in learning
- have previous experiences and backgrounds recognised as part of learning
- are supported through effective classroom practice and school support structures
- have the opportunity to work cooperatively and solve problems
- have achievements recognised and celebrated
- take responsibility for, and have the opportunity to reflect on learning.

### TEACHERS

We believe that children learn best when teachers:

- believe that every child can learn, and set high, realistic expectations for that learning
- are specifically trained to teach the Early Years
- have a sense of ownership in a flexible and responsive learning environment
- are enthusiastic, confident and organised
- have established partnerships with administration, colleagues, parents and the wider school community
- participate in life-long learning
- have the opportunity to reflect on their own practice and engage in ongoing professional development
- have their achievements recognised and celebrated within the school community.

