

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have many diverse children at our school. Throughout your child's journey you will come into contact with children who have sporting skills, compassion, learning needs, intellectual – abilities and limitations as well as behavioural and physical disabilities or limitations.

The School community prides itself on how our children learn and practice the skills of safe, honest and respectful learning, and put the Catholic values into practice by showing compassion, inclusion and fairness.

We are always reminded of the reason as a staff and as a parent group we chose Catholic Education and it can best be described as the following:

*The mission of Catholic education, since its inception, has been to serve students from a range of diverse backgrounds, with particular responsibility for the disadvantaged and marginalized. A cornerstone of catholic education has been that **“all children, in virtue of their human dignity as human persons, have an inalienable right to education, adapted to their ability”** (Gravissimum Educationis, Declaration on Christian Education, October 28, 1965)*

There are times when some children due to their successes or limitations will become more visible in the classroom and sometimes playground. Your child may bring the stories of other children home and discuss the behaviour or the management of behaviours (again this can be the praise and awards for success as well as negative reports). We understand this can become quite concerning particularly if negative reports are coming home often and your child is unsettled by what has happened.

There are a couple of things that might help in this situation:

- Reassure your child that you have heard them (Acknowledge)
- Ask how they felt at the time? And how they feel now (naming feelings over time)
- Praise them if they have appropriately and independently dealt with the situation (this is fostering resilience in our children)
- Encourage them to report their concerns to the teacher if something is happening and they feel they are unable to deal with it independently (reporting NOT dobbing)
- Encourage them to be “good sports” and praise success of peers (reinforcing positive social behaviours amongst peers)

To try and limit negative reports at home you can ask your child about:

- What was the best part of your day?
- Their favourite piece of learning
- If they played on the oval or courts

- What they think they did well in the game
- What they would like to try tomorrow
- Any special news that was shared

If the negative reports are worrying you as you feel your child is feeling distressed or reluctant to come to school, please approach the class teacher and voice your concerns. It is essential that the school knows what is happening and that we can respond to the needs during school hours.

Please demonstrate the value of respect by not approaching the other family members about negative reports – they will be aware of the concerns and they have a right to privacy in addressing their child's difficulties. Whilst we know it is human nature to offer advice, this can feel quite intimidating to families. Please note that children with the range of diversity mentioned above will have a range of strategies in place to ensure they are able to access learning and social opportunities equitably.



Kind Regards,

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Principal Chisholm Catholic Primary

Vennessa Goode
Leading Counsellor, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta.