



"To Live, To Love, To Grow In Christ"

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Holy Spirit Buddy Bench Policy

Rationale

Our *Buddy Bench* supports *Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School Positive Behaviour Support Policy Procedures*, as well as our *Wellbeing and Pastoral Care Policy*. Students require a quiet place to sit during recess or lunch when in the playground and looking for a friend to play a game that reflects and supports their interests. Rules for our *Buddy Bench* have been collated by students from all year levels.

Our *Buddy Bench* is about inclusion and fostering a sense of friendship. It is in a prominent location in our playground which is overseen by staff when on yard duty.

Our *Buddy Bench* is for students who are looking to make new friends or broaden their friendship group.

As Holy Spirit makes the *Buddy Bench* a part of our culture it will become a great focal point in the school community by helping to reduce isolation and assist in building a real sense of mateship in the schoolyard. In addition, our *Buddy Bench* is to support and compliment *Making Jesus Real (MJR)*, a way of life that we continue to foster and encourage with our students and school community.

Aim

Our *Buddy Bench* is in place to:

- Reduce isolation
- Build a sense of mateship in the playground
- Provide a safe place for students to sit when feeling lonely and looking for a friend
- Encourage students to invite those sitting on the bench to join in with their game
- Make new friends
- Participate in a different activity for the day
- Foster an inclusive environment in the school where diversity and equality are celebrated

How to use Buddy Bench

Students from all year levels were asked to suggest what the *Buddy Bench* should look like and how it should be used. Common language and understanding is central to our *Buddy Bench* working for our students. Below we have listed student suggestions:

- To be used when feeling lonely and unable to find someone to play with
- If you make a friend at our *Buddy Bench*, play with them for remainder of play
- If you are sitting on our *Buddy Bench* and are invited to play, say yes
- If you see someone sitting on the bench, offer suggestions for things to do
- Prior to sitting on the bench be sure to look around for a person to play with
- Our *Buddy Bench* is not to be used for games

Buddy Bench link (YouTube) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2OwyMl115Jc>

For our children, common language and understanding of our *Buddy Bench* (on display in assembly area)

Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School Buddy Bench is:

- A place to sit during recess or lunch when looking for a friend to play with
- A place where new friends invite you into a game
- A place to feel safe, secure and included



Ratification:

This policy was ratified at School Board on Thursday 21st June, 2021

Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year cycle – June, 2024