



Godparent Program



□ Rationale

The Godparent Program is a learning program based on the philosophy that, at any age, people are influenced by and can learn from their peers. The program educates young people so that they may be more able to resist negative peer pressure, to care for each other and to follow a healthy lifestyle.

It provides opportunities for senior students to develop positive leadership skills so they lead small groups of students through activities based on enhancing their self awareness, self esteem, communication and coping skills.

The end result of the program is for a more friendly and caring School environment.

□ Aims

Through active participation in the Godparent program;

- The development of interpersonal and communication skills will be enhanced
- There'll be an increase in acceptance and co-operation between students of different ages
- The development of a caring attitude towards others will be fostered
- Leadership skills in older students will be heightened

□ Guiding Principles

The following principles are addressed in the development of the Godparent program;

1. Student leaders need to be instructed, supported and organised
2. All members of staff need to be supportive, organised and prepared
3. Teachers need to be caring mentors for their leaders and to be available to guide and support them
4. The program content needs to address the needs of all the students and must be carefully planned and monitored



□ Outcomes

Having participated in the Godparent program, it is intended that;

- Leadership skills of the older students has increased
- Awareness of the needs of younger children by senior students has increased
- Greater confidence has been demonstrated by senior students
- Communication skills have developed and the expression of caring attitudes of students towards each other was observed
- Student self confidence in communication with others was enhanced
- The program was well supported by the School community
- Teachers observed that positive interactions became more frequent among students throughout the School
- Greater understanding and appreciation of individual differences has been demonstrated by children across all grades