Toogoolawah State High School

Junior Secondary Philosophy

At Toogoolawah State High School we are passionate about providing students with a seamless transition into high school.

Our aim is to maintain student enthusiasm for learning and build self esteem so that school and learning is a positive and meaningful experience for all.

Our vision as a School is to offer our students quality and consistent teaching in a supportive learning environment.

The Queensland State Government has identified the following six principles to guide the implementation of Junior Secondary into high school. Junior Secondary refers to Years 7, 8 and 9. The first intake of Year 7 into high school will commence in 2015.

1. Distinct Identity— Junior secondary students are supported to develop their own group identity within the broader school community, and have a strong sense of belonging and ownership of their school and their learning.

   • A strong focus on the development of group identity whilst fostering a sense of belonging and connectedness to the whole school
   • Refurbished class rooms and flexible learning areas in F and D Block
   • A playground area with shaded seating and tables, handball court, drinking tap, paths and gardens
   • Orientation week at the start of year provides opportunities to settle in and develop group identity focusing and establishing strong relationships with peers and staff

2. Quality Teaching— The learning and achievement of junior secondary students is supported by highly skilled teachers with pedagogical knowledge and practice appropriate for this age group.

   • The consistent implementation of explicit teaching strategies, cooperative learning and differentiation
   • Core teachers for Maths, Science, English and History
   • Access to specialist teachers and learning areas such as laboratories, kitchens and creative arts spaces
   • Access to technology supporting student engagement
   • Consistent teacher aides in core classes
3. **Student Wellbeing**— Student wellbeing is positioned as core business, and there is a whole of school commitment to ensuring a safe, supportive, inclusive and disciplined environment for all Junior Secondary students as they make the transition to a secondary setting.

- Orientation program to ensure the smooth transition from primary to high school
- School-wide Positive Behaviour Support program (SWPBS)
- A strong involvement in extra-curricular activities including sporting competitions, debating, Duke of Edinburgh, instrumental music and the Active Citizens Program
- Camps to develop leadership and team-building skills
- Student Welfare Organisation Team to monitor student wellbeing

4. **Parent and Community Involvement**— There are a range of avenues to build the active and authentic involvement of Junior Secondary parents and community, and reciprocal partnerships exist between parents and the school.

- Information Sessions at all primary schools in 2014 to support the transition
- Communicating and consulting with parents and the local community through the Parents and Citizens Association
- Parent teacher interviews to discuss student progress
- Newsletter and website to promote Junior Secondary achievements and events

5. **Leadership**— Leadership opportunities for staff and students are delivered through strong school leadership and a focus on support for Junior Secondary students.

- Head of Department - Junior Secondary to support Junior Secondary teachers
- Teacher leadership developed through professional development and collaboration with colleagues
- Junior Secondary Captains and House Captains, as well as class representatives are elected each year to support and lead students in Years 7, 8 and 9

6. **Local Decision Making**— Local school communities influence the shape of the Junior Secondary model in each school, reflecting local needs.

- Visits to local primary schools by high school staff to explore curriculum implementation
- Feedback and reflections from staff, students and community members invited
- Visits to primary school P & C meetings

---

For more information please contact
Toogoolawah State High School
(07) 5423 4444