



St Francis of Assisi
PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

PRAYER POLICY

Rationale

Prayer in all its forms is ultimately an expression of our relationship with God. As with any relationship, it can be expressed in a variety of ways, including ritualised and spontaneous forms, or even in silence. The style or manner of prayer which is most easily used will vary from individual to individual. God does, in fact, communicate with us through and in, our personality.

Each form of prayer involves a particular set of skills and it is important that students are exposed, not only to the complete range of prayer forms, but are assisted in the development of the skills which pertain to each form.

Aims

At St Francis of Assisi School we aim to introduce the children to the many ways in which they can express their growing relationship with God in prayer. Therefore, the school program sets out to provide for children:

- an environment in which prayer is a natural expression of both the individual and shared relationship with God;
- a knowledge of the variety of ways prayer can be experienced;
- a structured approach to the teaching of the skills relevant to each form of prayer;
- an approach to prayer which allows students to incorporate visual, kinaesthetic, oral and aural faculties;
- a knowledge and understanding of formal prayer;
- a particular appreciation of the Prayer of St Francis which expresses many of the aspirations of our school community to be a place of peace, acceptance and love.
- an appreciation of, and an ability to participate in, liturgical and paraliturgical prayer with special emphasis on the Eucharist.

Implementation

- All the significant and many of the routine gatherings in the life of the school begin with prayer.
- Each school day begins with whole school meditation at 8:50am and may last up to 10 minutes in readiness for 9:00am.
- Grace is said before lunch is eaten.
- Each school day also concludes with prayer.

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- In the Religious Education Program at all year levels, a structured approach is adopted to the teaching of a variety of prayer forms, as appropriate to the children's age. A scope and sequence, developed by the CEO is followed.
- Opportunities are provided for the Staff to pray together during meetings as well as opportunities for prayer during the seasons of Lent and Advent.
- Liturgical and paraliturgical celebrations are a regular part of school life.
- A crucifix is displayed and a prayer table provides a focus for prayer in each classroom.
- Music, movement, works of art, meditation and reflection are all part of prayerful expression of students.
- Sacramental Programs are marked by an invitation to the whole school community to pray for those involved in the Program.