



St Francis of Assisi
PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Rationale

Religious Education at St Francis of Assisi School is a rich educational undertaking that contributes in a systematic and structured way to the religious formation of students within the Parish context. Religious Education fosters and nurtures a sense of belonging within the life of the Church. It does this within the educational setting of the Catholic School by providing students with learning opportunities that immerse them in the authentic traditions, beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church. Thus, Religious Education has a developmental foundation, as students grow in their appreciation of themselves as created in God's own image, as people of body and spirit, possessed of profound worth and dignity. This, in turn, finds validation and expression in the lived community experience of the Catholic School and Parish of St Francis of Assisi. At the heart of this experience is the growth of a relationship with Jesus Christ who reveals to us a God who is Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Aims

Religious Education at St Francis of Assisi aims to develop in students:

- a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Gospels and in the Tradition of the Catholic Church;
- an awareness that all human beings are made in the image and likeness of God and a consequent understanding of the sacredness of life;
- an appreciation of their wholeness as human beings, individuals of body and spirit, with a deep call to eternal life;
- an appreciation of human sexuality as a precious gift from God, our Creator;
- a moral sense and a well-formed conscience based on the life and teachings of Jesus;
- an ability to relate to others with respect, compassion and tolerance;
- a capacity to participate actively and meaningfully in the Liturgical Life of the Church;
- a knowledge of the cycle of the Church's Liturgical Seasons;
- a habit of prayer as a daily expression of a relationship with God;
- an ongoing understanding of the Sacramental life of the Church and a readiness to participate in it;
- an appreciation of creation as a sacred gift of God for which we share responsibility;
- a respect for and veneration of Mary, the mother of Jesus;
- an appreciation of family as the context in which we learn and live and grow as loving people.

Implementation

- In all classrooms two hours per week is set aside for implementation of the Religious Education Curriculum.
- The Archdiocesan texts, "To Know, Worship and Love" is used as a resource for planning the religious education curriculum.
- The Religious Education Learning Foci are audited yearly against the inquiry through-lines.
- Scripture is embedded in the Religious Education curriculum following a whole school scope and sequence and is explored through Godly Play experiences, thinking strategies and graphic organisers.
- Student progress is assessed and reported to parents as part of the School's reporting procedures.
- Teachers assess students according to the Religious Education Tracking Tool as initiated by the Catholic Education Office of Melbourne.
- The relationship with the Parish of Mill Park is fostered specifically through initiatives such as Presentation of the Passion Play on Good Friday and planning, preparation and celebration of Children's Masses at Easter and Christmas.
- Links with other curriculum areas are deliberately and constructively sought. The principles of justice, compassion, forgiveness and acceptance which underline this Program find expression in all the curriculum activities of the School, according to the content and nature of each curriculum area.
- Classes are rostered to prepare and celebrate class Masses each term.
- Significant events and commemorations throughout the year are celebrated paraliturgically as part of the School's life.
- Regular prayer forms part of the routine in each classroom including whole school meditation at the beginning of each day.
- Celebration of the Sacraments (see Sacramental Program Policy) invites full participation by families.
- The School's Pastoral Care Policy brings to life the spirit of the Religious Education Program in its concern for each individual student. (See Pastoral Care Policy).
- The Religious Education Program strives to acknowledge and to celebrate the diversity of cultures within the school and the breadth of Religious expression that this brings.
- The "The Growing Together In Life and Love" program whilst its focus is in Religious Education, is integrated appropriately into the school's total curriculum.