



St Francis of Assisi
PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

SACRAMENTAL PREPARTION PROGRAM POLICY

Rationale

The celebration of the Sacraments lies at the heart of the life of the Church. For children and their families they are therefore, significant and memorable occasions. They mark important moments in the life of children and they become part of the story and fabric of the life of the family. As rituals, the Sacraments celebrate the action of God in our lives and use what is visible, audible and tangible to put us in touch with what we cannot see, hear or touch. They therefore, communicate to us at a particular time and place the reality of God's love that is always present and always available to us.

This Policy recognises the primary role of parents in the faith formation of their children and attempts to put in place structures that will facilitate that.

Aims

The Sacramental Preparation Program at St Francis of Assisi aims:

- To develop in students and their families an awareness of the presence of God in Christ.
- To develop in students and their families a sensitivity to the power of the created universe around them, to put them in touch with God.
- To celebrate the many ways in which our lives are filled with the presence of God.
- To prepare students to celebrate moments in their lives of healing and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation: empowering by the Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation and moments of the real and faithful presence of Christ in the Sacrament of Eucharist.
- To provide families with an opportunity to grow together in faith through the sharing of experience, prayer and learning.
- To lead students to understand and appreciate that the sacramental life of the Church begun in them at Baptism, invites a response of faith and openness to grow in relationship with God throughout their lives.

Implementation

- As part of the Religious Education Program of the School the students are prepared for the reception of the Sacraments. In Year Three, preparation focuses on the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist and in Year Six, on the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Sensitivity is extended to the families of students who belong to the Eastern Catholic Rites.
- As part of the preparation program, parent information evenings and parent/child workshops are offered. These assist parents in their role as primary educators of their children in matters of faith. These also offer parents an opportunity to deepen their own understanding of the Sacramental life of the Church and its meaning within their own lives.

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- The School maintains a very close liaison with the Parish and in its broader outreach, is inclusive of children from neighbouring State Schools.
- Families of children preparing for the Sacraments are invited to participate in Liturgical and Paraliturgical Celebrations to assist them in their preparation.