

Religious Education Policy

- Knowing and Growing


effective February 2009

Knowing

- Within our learning environments a formal approach is taken to Religious Education. This is where we impart and explore the knowledge and skills of our faith. Religious Education is a Key Learning Area alongside other subject areas and has a required body of knowledge which is assessable. We implement the Religious Education Guidelines which were written to meet the needs of students in our schools. The Curriculum Guidelines for the Early Years is used in the Prep Year and to locate Religious Education in the context of the early years of schooling.

Growing

Our Ethos

- Our Mission and Vision Statement provide direction for all we do at Star of the Sea Primary School. We are committed, in partnership with the Parish, to developing an open and inclusive environment which aims to unite faith, culture and learning in harmony. Our approach to all aspects of school life – our policies, practices, interactions – is enriched by our school motto “Christ Lighting our Way”.
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Our Celebrations

Opportunities to gather as a community allow us to build relationships with God and with each other. Just as ritual and celebration form an important part of our lives at home, so to at Star of the Sea, we ritualise significant moments. These include our Assemblies, Celebrations of Learning and Liturgical Celebrations.

Prayer :

Prayer is an integral part of life at Star of the Sea. It should be simple, sincere, hope-filled and from the heart. Many and varied opportunities for prayer are provided for staff, students and families within the school and parish.

Staff Prayer:

One of the ways that staff members at Star of the Sea witness to the rest of the community is to pray as a staff. A member of staff prepares for this gathering. A timetable is prepared by the APRE for each term. Father Frank will join us for this prayer where possible.

School Prayer:

We gather as a whole school to pray at a variety of times and in a variety of settings. Class prayer can be both formal and informal, timetabled and spontaneous. We pray at the beginning of each day as a class family, responding to significant events in our lives. Taking the time to gather in this way says to the children that we think prayer is important enough to give it special time and that we see God as an important part of our day. We pray before meals and before going home. We reflect on the day's happenings and give thanks for time together. We pray as a whole school at Friday Assembly. Each class will contribute to this prayer time.

Liturgical Celebrations

The whole school gathers twice each term with the Parish at Thursday 9.15am Mass. The school also celebrates one Sunday morning Mass each term with the Parish. Easter, Christmas and other important feast days will be celebrated with the Parish. Families will be invited to attend and participate in these celebrations. We have an opening and closing Mass to begin and end our year together. Classes may also have paraliturgies which link with particular units throughout the year.



Sacramental Program

First Communion – Children in Year Three will be invited to join the Parish Sacramental Program in preparation for First Communion. The school will explore this sacrament as part of the Religious Education program in the Year Three class.

Our unique bayside location and our patron Mary – Star of the Sea challenge us to understand not only our Catholic spirituality but also our Aboriginal and Environmental spirituality. We know that just as Mary was the guiding light for her son Jesus, so he is the guiding light in our lives everyday in the ways we know and grow.