



St Patrick's Primary School, Pyramid Hill

Catholic Identity

Belief Statement:

We believe that Catholic Identity is integral to every aspect of the Catholic school and nurtures and guides who we are. Our commitment to our Catholic Identity is evident in all we do. At St Patrick's we strive to live out the teachings of Jesus through the Gospel values. We believe that the holistic development of the child is possible in a safe, positive and caring environment.

Aim:

We celebrate our Catholic Identity by:

- Nurturing within students a growing understanding of ones relationship with God
- Assisting students to understand and explore the Catholic Faith Tradition
- Providing students with the experiences to appreciate different faith traditions
- Modelling an active appreciation and involvement in social justice initiatives in our local and global community
- Provide students with rich, real and relevant Religious Education curriculum
- Encourage students to participate in the life of a Catholic Community

Implementation:

We are committed to living out our Catholic Identity in all we do. Through;

- Participating in the evangelising mission of the Church
- Being committed and informed about the teachings of the Catholic Church
- Remaining abreast of current teaching and learning pedagogies around Religious Education
- Taking action to promote justice, reconciliation and environmental responsibility locally and globally
- Supporting students in the growth of their faith, spirituality, culture and life experience
- Integrating policies, practices, curriculum content and delivery and relationships

Agreed Practices of Catholic Identity and Religious Education at St Patrick's

Religious Education Curriculum:

St Patrick's will deliver the mandated time allocation of 2.5 hours of Religious Education each week. The curriculum is supported by Source of Life and follows a 2 year cycle. Religious Education curriculum is planned and delivered by the classroom teacher with the support of the Religious Education Co Ordinator. All planning must be documented by the classroom teacher. Classroom planning will be recorded within teacher's weekly work program with support from the Source of Life e-planner. Scripture is to be used in Religious Education at least once a week to teach the Gospel values. A variety of teaching strategies are used to implement the Shared Christian Praxis methodology including the use of Godly Play resources to assist in breaking open Scripture stories.

Religious education needs to be delivered in the likeness of other curricular areas ensuring the students are clear on the learning intention and engaged through current teaching and learning practices. All staff at St Patrick's will teach within the Catholic Ethos of the school. Teachers at St Patrick's will all be accredited to teach religious education within three years of employment at the school.

Prayer:

St Patrick's is committed to teaching all students a variety of Catholic prayers throughout their education. Prayer will begin and conclude each day with the modelling of silent, shared and group prayer. The accurate formation of the sign of the cross will be taught from Prep. Traditional prayers such as the sign of the cross, Our Father, Hail Mary and the Glory Be will all be taught. Each classroom will have a Prayer table displaying current links to the unit of work in each along with visible reminders of the faith e.g. crucifix, candles, posters.

Liturgy:

St Patrick's values the traditions and rituals of the Mass. The school aims to attend and celebrate Mass with the Parish community on a fortnightly basis gathering in the Church, classroom or Hostel. The students actively participate in the Mass from genuflection, to hymns, prayer, the offering of the gifts and alter serving. All liturgies begin with Acknowledgement of Country.

Sacramental Program:

The Sacramental Program is offered biannually at St Patrick's due to its cohort size. The Sacramental Candidates participate in the program in an integrated unit within Religious Education. Parents and Carers take part in joint learning with their child around the Sacraments in collaborative workshops and faith experiences. The Sacramental Program is offered to other students in the local area.

Social Justice:

St Patrick's prides itself on its ability to live in a socially just way and recognises that it is an integral part of our Catholic Identity. The students are great advocates of social justice and take action in raising goods and finances for those less fortunate on a local and global scale. The children explicitly learn what it means to be socially just and how their actions can assist others. St Patrick's provides opportunities for students to relate their knowledge of God and the scriptures into their daily lives through the involvement of fundraising activities for Caritas Australia;

participation in environmental days such as Clean Up Australia Day; Meals on Wheels on a monthly basis or visits to local Hostel residents.

St Patrick's communicates and invites parents and the wider community to celebrate important events such as Mother's Day lunch and Father's Day breakfast; student birthdays acknowledged on our newsletter; Feast Days (St. Patrick and St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop), Catholic Education Week, National Sorry Day and Remembrance Day.

Staff Development:

St Patrick's acknowledges the need for time and space for ones faith and spiritual growth. Each year St Patrick's staff take part in a spiritual experience to deepen and replenish ones faith. The Principal and REC work together to plan the most appropriate staff development. All staff development is needs based and targeted for the individual.

Budget:

The budget for Catholic Identity and Religious Education remains the discretion of the Principal. There is a Religious Education budget to ensure the school has current resources for teaching and learning. The budget for Religious Education is the responsibility of the Religious Education Co Ordinator. On a Sacramental year, an increase to the budget is required to account for the programs needs and supplies.

Assessment for Religious Education:

Assessment in Religious Education is to be recorded and attended to as per all curriculum areas. Assessment of students is carried out in many forms and regularly. Teachers gather anecdotal records, observations, learning samples and student reflections. Learning should be evidence to learning outcomes.

Reporting is carried out formally with a written report once a semester which identifies learning outcomes for each Source of Life Unit.

Assessment & Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed annually and earlier should a need arise to do so.

Resources:

- Source of Life
- COSSI
- Staff are encouraged to borrow resources from the CEO Resource Centre
- Good News Bible Class sets
- Godly Play Boxes
- Expression Books 1-4 (Maurice Ryan)
- Religious Music (CD's and tapes)
- Fr Eugene (Parish Priest)